

On the Mythological Mesopotamian Genealogy

The **cosmogenic myth** common in **Sumer** was that of the **hieros gamos**, a *sacred marriage* where divine principles in the form of dualistic opposites came together as male and female to give birth to the cosmos.

The word **Sumerian** was not coined by the people themselves but by the **Akkadians** who took over the region and created the **Babylonian civilization**. The **Greeks** later referred to this area as **Mesopotamia** which means the land between the rivers viz. the **Tigris** and **Euphrates Rivers**.

Sumerian mythology greatly influenced the myths of later civilizations including those of the Greeks, and Babylonians. You will therefore notice many similarities in their characteristics and themes. This is also why it is often difficult to attribute these godlings to a particular group of people as their attributes and names often evolved over time. The **Sumerian godlings** are usually depicted in human form, each representing different forces of nature. They have human personality traits and frailties and live together in family groups. The Sumerian godlings were the foundation upon which their society was based. With the move from an agricultural society to an urban one the old nature deities became the patron godlings of the new city states. The city was then ruled by a priest king assisted by a wise council of elders made up of both men and woman.

The Sumerians believed *that* the first thing that existed was the **primordial sea** (associated with the goddess **Nammu**), from which emerged **heaven (An)** and **earth (Ki)**, united as though they were a large mountain in the midst of the sea. ‘An’ and ‘Ki’ produced within-or-between them **Enlil** was the air (which began to stir in the darkness within the mountain and separated ‘sky’ and ‘earth.’ Then to see better, Enlil begot the **moon-god Nanna**, who in turn begot the **sun-god Utu**, presumably to make the light brighter: We will see this again in **Semiramis** and **Nimrod**. By the time ‘the world’ had come into being, for ‘the sky’ (An) by expansion of ‘air’ (Enlil) had reached a great height, and ‘the earth’ (Ki) had made a solid floor below, with ‘sun and moon’ to bring light. When air moved above earth (or when Enlil united with his mother Ki) and received the aid of water (‘Enki the Irrigator’), plants and animals came into being. Finally, man was created by the joint efforts of Nammu, the primeval sea, **Ninurta** mother-earth, and **Enki**, the water-god.

A Concise Chronology of the Anunnaki

Zecharia Sitchin was an author of a number of books proposing an explanation for *human origins* involving **ancient astronauts**. Sitchin attributed the *creation of the ancient Sumerian culture* to the **Anunnaki**, which he stated was *a race of extraterrestrials* from *a planet beyond Neptune* called **Nibiru**—orbiting our sun every 3600 years (60^2 or 60×60). A planet with an orbit so eccentric that it took 60^2 years to orbit the sun would create instabilities inside our 4.5-billion-year-old solar system.

After only a few trips, its gravity would have significantly disrupted the other planets, whose own gravitational pushes would have changed the hypothetical world’s orbit significantly. Beyond the *gas giant Neptune* lays *a region of space filled with icy bodies*. Known as the **Kuiper Belt** or the **Edgeworth-Kuiper Belt**, this chilly expanse holds *trillions of objects—remnants of the early solar system*.

When the solar system formed, much of the *gas, dust* and *rocks* pulled together to form the *sun and planets*. The planets then swept most of the remaining *debris* into the sun or out of the solar system. But objects at the edge of the solar system were far enough away to avoid the *gravitational tugs* of the much larger planets like **Jupiter**, and so managed to stay in their place as they slowly orbited the sun. The Kuiper Belt and its compatriot, the more distant and spherical **Oort Cloud**, contain the leftover remnants from the beginning of the solar system and can provide valuable insights into its birth.

Events before the Deluge

450,000 years ago

On Nibiru, a distant member of our solar system, life faces slow extinction as the planet’s atmosphere erodes. Deposed by Anu, the ruler Alalu escapes in a spaceship and finds refuge on Earth. He discovers that Earth has gold that can be used to protect Nibiru’s atmosphere.

445,000

Led by Enki, a son of Anu, the Anunnaki land on Earth, establish Eridu -Earth Station I – for extracting gold from the waters of the Persian Gulf.

430,000

Earth’s climate mellows. More Anunnaki arrive on Earth, among them Enki’s half-sister Ninhursag, Chief Medical Officer.

416,000

As gold production falters, Anu arrives on Earth with Enlil, the heir apparent. It is decided to obtain the vital gold by mining it in southern Africa. Drawing lots, Enlil wins command of Earth Mission; Enki is relegated to Africa. On departing Earth, Anu is challenged by Alalu’s grandson.

400,000

Seven functional settlements in southern Mesopotamia include a Spaceport (Sippar), Mission Control Center (Nippur), a metallurgical center (Shuruppak). The ores arrive by ships from Africa; the refined

metal is sent aloft to orbiters manned by Igigi, then transferred to spaceships arriving periodically from Nibiru.

380,000

Gaining the support of the Igigi, Alalu’s grandson attempts to seize mastery over Earth. The Enlilites win the War of the Olden Gods.

300,000

The Anunnaki toiling in the gold mines mutiny. Enki and Ninhursag create Primitive Workers through genetic manipulation of Ape woman; they take over the manual chores of the Anunnaki. Enlil raids the mines, brings the Primitive Workers to the Edin in Mesopotamia. Given the ability to procreate, Homo Sapiens begins to multiply.

200,000

Life on Earth regresses during a new glacial period.

100,000

Climate warms again. The Anunnaki (the biblical Nefilim), to Enlil’s growing annoyance, marry the daughters of Man.

75,000

The “accursation of Earth” – a new Ice Age-begins. Regressive types of Man roam the Earth. Cro-Magnon man survives.

49,000

Enki and Ninhursag elevate humans of Anunnaki parentage to rule in Shuruppak. Enlil enraged. Plots Mankind’s demise.

13,000

Realizing that the passage of Nibiru in Earth's proximity will trigger an immense tidal wave, Enlil makes the Anunnaki swear to keep the impending calamity a secret from Mankind.

Events after the Deluge

11,000 BC

Enki breaks the oath, instructs **Ziusudra** / **Noah** to build a submersible ship. The Deluge sweeps over the Earth; the Anunnaki witness the destruction from their orbiting spacecraft.

Enlil agrees to grant the remnants of Mankind implements and seeds; agriculture begins in the highlands. Enki domesticates animals.

10,500 BC

The descendants of Noah are allotted three regions. Ninurta, Enlil's foremost son, dams the mountains and drains the rivers to make Mesopotamia habitable; Enki reclaims the Nile valley. The Sinai Peninsula is retained by the Anunnaki for a post-Diluvial spaceport; a control center is established on Mount Moriah (the future Jerusalem).

9780 BC

Ra/Marduk, Enki's firstborn son, divides dominion over Egypt between Osiris and Seth.

9330 BC

Seth seizes and dismembers Osiris, assumes sole rule over the Nile Valley.

8970 BC

Horus avenges his father Osiris by launching the First Pyramid War. Seth escapes to Asia, seizes the Sinai peninsula and Canaan.

8670 BC

Opposed to the resulting control of all the space facilities by Enki's descendants, the Enlilites launch the Second Pyramid War. The victorious Ninurta empties the Great Pyramid of its equipment.

Ninhursag, the half-sister of Enki and Enlil, convenes a peace conference. The division of Earth is reaffirmed. Rule over Egypt transferred from the Ra/Marduk dynasty to that of Thoth. Heliopolis built as a substitute Beacon City.

8500 BC

The Anunnaki establish outposts at the gateway to the space facilities; Jericho is one of them.

7400 BC

As the era of peace continues, the Anunnaki grant Mankind new advances; the Neolithic period begins. Demi-gods rule over Egypt.

3800 BC

Urban civilization begins in Sumer as the Anunnaki reestablish there the Olden Cities, beginning with Eridu and Nippur.

Anu comes to Earth to visit in pageantry. A new city, Uruk (Erech), is built in his honor; he makes its temple the abode of his beloved granddaughter Inanna/Ishtar.

A Biographical Dictionary of the Sumerian Godlings

Allat the Great (goddess)

al-Lāt (han-'llat).

The word is akin to **Elat**, which was the name of the wife of Semitic deity **El**.

Allat, also spelled Allatu, Alilat, Allāt, and al-Lāt (Arabic: اللات) was the name and title of multiple goddess worshipped in pre-Islamic Arabia, including the one in **Mecca** who was a chief goddess along with **Manāt** and **al-'Uzzā**.

Also known as **Asherah** and **Athirat**.

Especially in older sources, **Allat** is an alternative name of the Mesopotamian goddess of the underworld, now usually known as **Ereshkigal**. She was reportedly also venerated in Carthage under the name **Allatu** and as a goddess of Nabataeans of Petra and the people of Hatra, who worshipped her, equating her with the Greek **Athena** or **Aphrodite** and **Tyche** and the Roman **Minerva**. She is frequently called "**Great Goddess**" in Greek in multi-lingual inscriptions. The Nabataeans believed al-Lāt was the mother of **Hubal** (and hence the mother-in-law of **Manāt**).

Possibly also known as Ereshkigal; Alilat (Aphrodite); Mylitta (Assyrian goddess);

Daughter-wife of **Allah**, supreme god of the Arabs.

Mother of Hubal.

Possible children: **Lilake**, a (Sumerian) demoness; **Enki Samael** (Immortal); **Lilith** (Immortal); and **Aplu**, Hurrian god of the Plague.

Alternative mother of possible children: *probably* **Ereshkigal**, goddess of Darkness.

Anu

Anu earliest attested Sumerian Sky Father deity

Anunnaki

The **Anunnaki** (also transcribed as: Anunaki, Anunna, Anunnaku, Ananaki and other variations), meaning "princely offspring" or "offspring of Anu," are a group of deities in ancient Mesopotamian cultures (e.g. Sumerian, Akkadian, Assyrian, and Babylonian). They are chthonic deities of fertility, associated eventually with the underworld, where they became judges. They take their name from the old sky god An (Anu).

By her consort **Anu**, **Ki** gave birth to the Anunnaki, the most prominent of these deities being **Enlil**, god of the air. According to legends, heaven and earth were once inseparable until Enlil was born; Enlil cleaved heaven and earth in two. Anu carried away heaven. Ki, in company with Enlil, took the earth.

Their relation to the group of gods known as the **Igigi** is unclear - at times the names are used synonymously but in the **Atra-Hasis flood myth** the Igigi are the sixth generation of the gods who have to work for the Anunnaki, rebelling after 40 days and replaced by the creation of humans.

See **Igigi**.

Anshar (primordial god)

Whole Heaven or Heaven-pivot.

Possibly *also known as* **Ashur** (Assyrian god of the Sky).

Son of **Lahmu** and **Lahamu**.

Brother-husband of **Kishar** (primordial goddess).

Children: **Anu**, god of the Sky; **Anatu** (goddess); and **Ki Urash**, goddess of the Earth.

Possible child: **Enlil**, god of the Wind.

Alternative father of possible child: **Anu**, god of the Sky.

Anu, god of the sky

Also known as An.

Anu means sky and heaven.

Murdered Apsu to become supreme god in Sumerian myth.

Possible wives and partners: **Ki Urash**, goddess of the Earth; **Nammu**, goddess of the Sea; Anatu (goddess); **Uraš (Urash)**, goddess; Nammu, goddess of the Sea.

Children: **Inanna Ishtar** (Queen) of Heaven; **Ereshkigal**, goddess of Darkness; **Enki (Ea)**, god of Wisdom; **Ninhursag** (mother goddess); **Amurru**, god of the Amorites; Ninurta (Lord Plough).

Possible children: Asaru; Asarualim; Asarualimnunna; Asaruludu; En-Ki; Namru; Namtillaku; and Tutu.

Other possible children: **Enlil**, god of Wind; **Nidaba**, Sumerian goddess of Writing and Learning; and **Kumarbis**, high god of the Hittites.

Alternative fathers of other possible children: **Anus**, Hittite Sky god; **Anshar**, a Primordial god.

Anu (Akkadian; Sumerian: An, from "sky, heaven," is the earliest attested Sky Father deity). In Sumerian religion, he was also "King of the Gods," "Lord of the Constellations, Spirits and Demons," and "Supreme Ruler of the Kingdom of Heaven," where Anu himself wandered the highest Heavenly Regions. He was believed to have the power to judge those who had committed crimes, and to have created the stars as soldiers to destroy the wicked. His attribute was the Royal Tiara. His attendant and vizier was the god **Ilabrat**.

Anu existed in **Sumerian cosmogony** as a dome that covered the flat earth; outside of this dome was the primordial body of water known as **Nammu** (not to be confused with the subterranean Abzu).

Anzû

Anzû, before misread as Zû, *also known as* **Imdugud**, is a lesser divinity or monster in several Mesopotamian religions. He was conceived by the pure waters of the **Apsu** and the wide Earth, or as son of **Siris**, the patron of beer¹ who is conceived of as a demon, which is not necessarily evil - she is daughter of the goddess **Ninkasi**. Anzû was seen as a massive bird who can breathe fire and water, although Anzû is alternately seen as a lion-headed eagle (like a reverse griffin).

In Sumerian and Akkadian mythology, Anzû is a *divine storm-bird* and the *personification of the southern wind and the thunder clouds*. This demon - half-man and half-bird - stole the "**Tablet of Destinies**" from Enlil and hid them on a mountaintop. Anu ordered the other gods to retrieve the tablet, even though they all feared the demon. According to one text, **Marduk** killed the bird; in another, it died through the arrows of the god Ninurta

Apsu, Ocean of Sweet Water

Primordial.

Son of **Nammu**, goddess of the sea.

Slain by **Enki**.

Brother-husband of **Tiamat**, Ocean of Salt Water, and *possibly* The Wide Earth.

Father of **Kingu** (a god); **Lahmu** (primordial god); **Lahamu** (primordial goddess); and *possibly* Anzu.

The **Abzu** or **Apsu** (Sumerian: *abzu*; Akkadian: *apsû*), also called **engur** (Sumerian: *engur*; Akkadian: *engurru*), was the name for the *primeval sea* below the void space of the underworld (Kur) and the earth (Ma) above.

It may also refer to fresh water from underground aquifers that was given a religious fertilizing quality. Lakes, springs, rivers, wells, and other sources of fresh water were thought to draw their water from the abzu.

Abzu (.lit., ab = water and zu = deep) is depicted as a deity only in the Babylonian creation epic, the ***Enûma Elish***, taken from the library of **Assurbanipal** (c 630 BCE) but which is about 500 years older. In this story, he was a primal being made of fresh water and a lover to another primal deity, **Tiamat**, who was a creature of salt water.

The *Enuma Elish* begins: "When above the heavens did not yet exist nor the earth below, Apsu the freshwater ocean was there, the first, the begetter, and Tiamat, the saltwater sea, she who bore them all; they were still mixing their waters, and no pasture land had yet been formed, nor even a reed marsh." This resulted in the birth of the younger gods, who later murder Apsu in order to usurp his lordship of the universe. Enraged, Tiamat gives birth to the first ***dragons***, filling their bodies with "venom instead of blood," and made war upon her treacherous children, only to be slain by **Marduk**, the god of Storms, who then forms the heavens and earth from her corpse.

Ashur

Ashur (also, Assur, Aššur; written A-šur, also Aš-šûr) is an East Semitic god, and the head of the Assyrian pantheon in Mesopotamian religion, worshipped mainly in the northern half of Mesopotamia, and parts of north-east Syria and south east Asia Minor which constituted old Assyria. He may have had a solar iconography.

Aššur was a deified form of the city of **Assur** (pronounced Ashur), which dates from the mid 3rd millennium BCE and was the capital of the Old Assyrian kingdom. As such, Ashur did not originally have a family, but as the cult came under southern Mesopotamian influence, he later came to be regarded as the Assyrian equivalent of **Enlil**, the chief god of **Nippur**, which was the most important god of the southern pantheon from the early 3rd millennium BCE until **Hammurabi** founded an empire based in Babylon in the mid-18th century BCE, after which **Marduk** replaced Enlil as the chief god in the south. In the north, Ashur

¹ Although **beer** as we know it had its origins in Mesopotamia, **fermented beverages** quickly spread around the world from Mesopotamia as the drink was shared with kings and rulers.

absorbed Enlil's wife **Ninlil** (as the Assyrian goddess **Mullissu**²) and his sons **Ninurta** and **Zababa** - this process began around the 14th century BCE and continued down to the 7th century.

Bau (or Baba)

See **Nintinugga**.

Baba (or Bau)

See **Nintinugga**.

Dagan

Damgalnuna

Damgalnuna was a mother goddess in Mesopotamian mythology. She first appears as a consort of **Enlil** in Sumerian mythology, and later becomes the Akkadian/Babylonian **Damkina**, consort of **Enki (Ea)** and mother of the god **Marduk**.

Damkina

Damkina (in Babylon and Assyria) or **Damgalnuna** (in Sumer) was an Earth-goddess of ancient Mesopotamia, consort of the great god **Enki (Ea)**. Her main place of worship was located in the city of **Malgûm** (or Malgium) located on the **Tigris** to the east of **Babylon**; she was also worshipped in **Lagash** and **Umma** in earlier periods. She was also worshiped in ancient **Assyria** - and had a temple at **Nimrud**, located east of the Tigris, a few kilometers north of its confluence with the **upper Zab**, (a river that originates in Turkey).

Damkina was considered the mother of the great Babylonian god **Marduk** and appears as such in the *Enuma Elish*.

Dumuzid the Shepherd

Dumuzid (sometimes transcribed as **Dumuzi**), called "the Shepherd," from Bad-tibira in Sumer, was, according to the *Sumerian King List*, the fifth predynastic king in the legendary period before the **Deluge**. The list further states that Dumuzid ruled for 36,000 years.

"**Dumuzid the Shepherd**" is also the subject of a series of epic poems in **Sumerian literature**. However, in these tablets he is associated not with **Bad-tibira** but with **Uruk**, where a namesake, **Dumuzid the Fisherman**, was king sometime after the **Flood**, in between **Lugalbanda "the Shepherd"** and **Gilgamesh**. Later poems and hymns of praise to Dumuzid indicate that he was later considered a deity, a precursor of the Babylonian god **Tammuz**.

Enheduanna

Enheduanna (fl. 23rd century BCE) was a daughter of **Sargon of Akkad** and probably **Queen Tashlultum** (fl. c. 2285-2250 BCE). Enheduanna's name translates as "High Priestess of An" (the sky

god) or "En-Priestess, wife of the god Nanna." he came from the northern city of Akkad.

She was the first known woman to hold the title of **EN** (Sumerian: "*lord*" or "*priest*"), a role of great political importance used to designate a high priest or priestess of a Sumerian city-state's patron-deity that was often held by royal daughters. Whether-or-not Enheduanna was, *in fact*, a blood relative of Sargon's or the title was figurative is not known. It is clear, *however*, that Sargon, in a shrewd political move to help secure power in the Sumerian south at such a politically delicate time, placed enormous trust in Enheduanna in elevating her to the position of High Priestess of the Moon-god Nanna (Semitic: Sin) of the most important temple in Sumer (in the city-state of Ur). Enheduanna was charged with the task of reconciling the ***gods of the Akkadians*** with the ***gods of the Sumerians***, melding the Sumerian godlings with the Akkadian ones into a single, all-powerful deity, to create the stability his empire needed to thrive... so that the important city-state of Ur would acquiesce to Sargon's rule.

Further, she was the first author in the world known by name, and is credited with creating the paradigms of poetry, psalms, and prayers used throughout the ancient world. Her text was so significant that it influenced hymns for centuries: Through the Babylonians, they influenced and inspired the prayers and psalms of the Hebrew Bible and the Homeric hymns of Greece.

held her own against an attempted coup by a Sumerian rebel named ***Lugal-Ane*** who forced her into exile - but was finally restored to her rightful place in the temple.

She organized and presided over the city's temple complex, the heart of the city, and continued to hold office during the reign of **Rimush**, her brother (see ***Sumerian Kings List***). It was during the reign of Rimush that she was involved in some form of political turmoil - an attempted coup by a Sumerian rebel named ***Lugal-Ane***, who forced her into exile... but was eventually restored to her rightful place in the temple and reinstated as high priestess.

Enki (Ea), god of Wisdom

"Lord of the Earth."

Also known as **Nudimmud**; Sumerian Creator god, god of Water, god of **Eridu**, 4th in Annunaki (Assyro-Babylonian) hierarchy; (twin of **Ereshkigal**).

Son of **Anu**, god of the Sky, and **Anatu** (goddess) or *possibly* **Nammu**, goddess of the Sea, q.v.

Possible wives or partners: **Ninhursag** (Mothe-goddess); **Ningikuga**, goddess of the Pure Reed; **Damkina** (Mother-goddess of Babylon); and **Ninsun 'the Wise'** (cow goddess); and Dust.

Children: **Dumuzi** or **Tammuz**, god of Fertility; **Adam**, the First Man; **Ningal**, goddess of the Moon; and **Alulim** (1st King) of Eridu.

Possible children: Adapa (King) of Eridu; and Marduk, chief god of Assyria.

Alternative fathers of possible children: Kingu, god; and Enlil, god of the Wind.

Possible grandchildren: daughter of Dumuzi; Dindymeme of Phrygia; Abel; Ereshkigal (Immortal); Inanna or Ishtar (Queen) of Heaven; Hept Ishtar; Alalgar; Kain (Cain); Adam, the First Man; and the mortal world of Babylon.

Enki is a god in Sumerian mythology, later known as **Ea** in Akkadian and Babylonian mythology. He was originally patron

² **Mullissu** is a goddess whom **Herodotus** called **Mylitta** and identified with **Aphrodite**. The name Mylitta may derive from Mulliltu or Mulitta, names related to Mullissu.

god of the city of **Eridu**, but later the influence of his cult spread throughout Mesopotamia and to the Canaanites, Hittites and Hurrians. He was the deity of crafts (*gašam*); mischief; water, seawater, lakewater (*a, aba, ab*), intelligence (*gestú*, literally "ear") and creation (Nudimmud: *nu*, likeness, *dim mud*, make beer). He was associated with the southern band of constellations called **stars of Ea**, but also with the **constellation AŠ-IKU, the Field (Square of Pegasus)**. Beginning around the second millennium BCE, he was sometimes referred to in writing by the numeric ideogram for "**40**," occasionally referred to as his "sacred number." The planet **Mercury**, associated with Babylonian **Nabu** (the son of Marduk) was in Sumerian times, identified with Enki.

The main temple to Enki is called **E-abzu**, meaning "**abzu temple**" (also **E-en-gur-a**, meaning "house of the subterranean waters"), a ziggurat temple surrounded by Euphratean marshlands near the ancient Persian Gulf coastline at Eridu. He was the keeper of the divine powers called **Me**, the gifts of civilization. His image is a **double-helix snake**, or the **Caduceus**, sometimes confused with the **Rod of Asclepius** used to symbolize medicine. He is often shown with the horned crown of divinity dressed in the skin of a carp.

Considered the master shaper of the world, god of wisdom and of all magic, **Enki** was characterized as the lord of the Abzu (Apsu in Akkadian), the freshwater sea or groundwater located within the earth. In the later Babylonian epic *Enûma Eliš*, **Abzu**, the "begetter of the gods," is inert and sleepy but finds his peace disturbed by the younger gods, so sets out to destroy them. His grandson Enki, chosen to represent the younger gods, puts a spell on Abzu "casting him into a deep sleep," thereby confining him deep underground. Enki subsequently sets up his home "in the depths of the Abzu." Enki thus takes on all of the functions of the Abzu, including his fertilizing powers as lord of the waters and lord of semen.

Early royal inscriptions from the third millennium BCE mention "**the reeds of Enki**." **Reeds** were an important local building material, used for baskets and containers, and collected outside the city walls, where the dead or sick were often carried. This links Enki to the **Kur** or underworld of Sumerian mythology. In another even older tradition, **Nammu**, the goddess of the primeval creative matter and the mother-goddess portrayed as having "given birth to the great gods," was the mother of Enki, and as the watery creative force, was said to preexist Ea-Enki

His symbols included a **goat** and a **fish**, which later combined into a single beast, the goat **Capricorn**, recognized as the **Zodiacal constellation Capricornus**. He was accompanied by an attendant/messenger **Isimud** (also Isinu; Usmû; Usumu (Akkadian)) who always depicted with two faces facing in opposite directions in a way that is similar to the ancient Roman god, **Janus**.

He was also associated with the planet **Mercury** in the Sumerian astrological system.

Enki and the Making of Man

After six generations of gods, in the Babylonian *Enuma Elish*, in the seventh generation, (Akkadian "*shapattu*" or *sabath*), the younger **Igigi** gods, the sons and daughters of **Enlil** and **Ninlil**, go on strike and refuse their duties of keeping the creation working. **Abzu**, god of fresh water, co-creator of the cosmos, threatens to destroy the world with his waters, and the godlings gather in terror. Enki promises to help and puts **Abzu** to sleep, confining him in **irrigation** canals and places him in the **Kur**, beneath his city of **Eridu**. But the universe is still threatened, as **Tiamat**, angry at the imprisonment of Abzu and at the prompting of her son and vizier **Kingu**, decides to take back the creation herself. The gods gather again in terror and turn to Enki for help, but Enki who harnessed Abzu, Tiamat's consort, for irrigation refuses to get involved. The gods then seek help elsewhere, and the patriarchal Enlil, their father, god of **Nippur**, promises to solve the problem if

they make him King of the Gods. In the Babylonian tale, Enlil's role is taken by **Marduk**, Enki's son, and in the Assyrian version it is **Ashur**. After dispatching Tiamat with the "arrows of his winds" down her throat and constructing the heavens with the arch of her ribs, Enlil places her tail in the sky as the **Milky Way**, and her crying eyes become the source of the **Tigris** and **Euphrates**. But there is still the problem of "who will keep the cosmos working." Enki, who might have otherwise come to their aid, is lying in a deep sleep and fails to hear their cries. His mother Nammu (creatix *also* of Abzu and Tiamat) "brings the tears of the gods" before Enki and says:

Oh my son, arise from thy bed, from thy (slumber), work what is wise,
Fashion servants for the Gods, may they produce their (bread?).

Enki then advises that they create a servant of the gods, humankind, out of clay and blood. Against Enki's wish the Gods decide to slay **Kingu**, and Enki finally consents to use Kingu's blood to make the first human, with whom Enki always later has a close relationship, the first of the seven sages, seven wise men or "**Abgallu**" (Ab = water, Gal = great, Lu = Man), also known as **Adapa**. Enki assembles a team of divinities to help him, creating a host of "good and princely fashioners". He tells his mother:

Oh my mother, the creature whose name thou has uttered, it exists,
Bind upon it the (will?) of the Gods;
Mix the heart of clay that is over the Abyss,
The good and princely fashioners will thicken the clay
Thou, do thou bring the limbs into existence;
Ninmah (the Earth-mother goddess (Ninhursag, his wife and consort) will work above thee
(Nintu?) (goddess of birth) will stand by thy fashioning;
Oh my mother, decree thou its (the new born's) fate.

Adapa, the first man fashioned, later goes and acts as the advisor to the King of Eridu, when in the Sumerian Kinglist, the "**Me**" of "kingship descends on Eridu."

Enki and the Deluge

According to Sumerian mythology, **Enki** also assisted humanity to survive the **Deluge** designed to kill them. In the later *Legend of Atrahasis*, **Enlil**, the king of the gods, sets out to eliminate humanity, whose noise is disturbing his rest. He successively sends drought, famine and plague to eliminate humanity, but Enki thwarts his half-brother's plans by teaching **Atrahasis** how to counter these threats. Each time, Atrahasis asks the population to abandon worship of all gods, except the one responsible for the calamity, and this seems to shame them into relenting. Humans, *however*, proliferate a fourth time. Enraged, Enlil convenes a **Council of Deities** and gets them to promise not to tell humankind that he plans their total annihilation. Enki does not tell Atrahasis directly, but speaks to him in secret *via* a reed wall. He instructs Atrahasis to build a boat in order to rescue his family and other living creatures from the coming deluge. After the seven-day Deluge, the flood hero frees a swallow, a raven and a dove in an effort to find if the flood waters have receded.³ Upon landing, a

³ Following the **Genesis flood**, as the ark was resting on **Mount Ararat**, Noah released a raven and dove from the ark at different times. The goal in sending these birds was to determine if the flood waters had abated enough for Noah and his family to exit the ark.

In Genesis 8:6-7 we read, "At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent forth a raven. It went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth." The "40 days" here is after the tops of the mountains were visible (verse 5), over seven months after the flood began. A raven was released and apparently never returned. No reason is provided regarding why a raven was selected rather than another bird. However, raven can eat carrion and would feed off dead animals in the water. A dove, on the other hand, would return to its point of origin if no land was found.

sacrifice is made to the gods. Enlil is angry his will has been thwarted yet again, and Enki is named as the culprit. Enki explains that Enlil is unfair to punish the guiltless, and the gods institute measures to ensure that humanity does not become too populous in the future. This is one of the oldest of the surviving Middle Eastern Deluge myths.

Enkidu

Enkidu was formed from clay and saliva by **Aruru**, the goddess of creation, to rid **Gilgamesh**, king of Uruk, of his arrogance. In the story he is a wild man, raised by animals and ignorant of human society until he is bedded by **Shamhat** (or Šamhat) "the luscious one," a sacred prostitute. Her sexual arts lead Enkidu to understand how basic animal urges can be transformed into something sophisticated, or "civilized." Mesopotamians believed that prostitution was one of the basic features of civilization: "a prime representative of urban life." Shamhat then becomes Enkidu's urbane "mother," teaching him the basics of civilized life, eating, drinking wine, and dressing himself. Thereafter a series of interactions with humans and human ways bring him closer to civilization, culminating in a wrestling match with Gilgamesh.

Enkidu embodies the wild or natural world. Though equal to Gilgamesh in strength and bearing, he acts in some ways as an antithesis to the cultured, urban-bred warrior-king. Enkidu then

Enlil, god of the Winds

Sumerian god (2nd only to **Anu**), who may have served as source for Judaic god; (banished from **Dilmun** for raping **Ninlil**, but returned to be chief god).

Possible wives and/or partners: **Ninlil**, goddess of Heaven (Air); **Damkina** (Mother-goddess of Babylon); Belit-Ili (Immortal); and Ninhursanga, the Mountain goddess.

Children: **Nergal**, Assyrian god in the Underworld; and **Nanna**, god of the Moon.

Possible children: Ninsun 'the Wise' (cow goddess); El Shaddai, supreme god of Canaan; Dagan, god of Grain; and Marduk, chief god of Assyria.

Alternative father of possible children: **Enki (Ea)**, god of Wisdom.

Possible grandchildren: Enki Samael (Immortal); Lilith (Immortal); Aplu, Hurrian god of the Plague; Shamash, god of the Sun; Numushda of Kazallu (god of the city of Inab); Ereshkigal (Immortal); Inanna or Ishtar (Queen) of Heaven; Dyeus Phater; Gilgamesh (5th King) of Uruk; Dumuzi Tammuz, god of Fertility; Adam, the First Man; Alulim (1st King) of Eridu; Yam (Ugaritic god of the Sea); Hadad (Ugaritic god of Heaven); Semahl the (Syrian) god; Elohim, god of Israel; Allah, supreme god of the Arabs; Baal, god of Thunder and Winter Storms; and the mortal world of Babylon.

Enmerkar

Enmerkar, according to the *Sumerian King List*, was the builder of **Uruk** in Sumer, and was said to have reigned for "420 years" (some copies read "900 years"). The king list adds that Enmerkar became king after his father **Mesh-ki-ang-gasher son of Utu** had "entered the sea and disappeared."

Ereshkigal, goddess of Darkness

Also known as Allatu, goddess of Underworld; Irkalla of Irkalla (Underworld); and as the twin of Enki Ea.

Daughter of **Nammu**.

Possible husbands and/or partners: **Nergal**, Assyrian god in the Underworld; and **Shamash**, god of the Sun.

Children: **Lilake**, a Sumerian demoness; Ninazu; and possibly Belit-Sheri (wife of Amurru (q.v.)).

Possible Children: **Enki Samael** (Immortal); **Lilith** (Immortal); and **Aplu**, Hurrian god of the Plague.

In Mesopotamian mythology, **Ereshkigal** (lit. "Queen of the Great Earth") was the goddess of **Irkalla**, the land of the dead or underworld. Sometimes her name is given as Irkalla, similar to the way the name **Hades** was used in Greek mythology for both the underworld and its ruler, and sometimes it is given as **Ninkigal** (lit. "Great Lady of the Earth" or "Lady of the Great Earth"), the queen of the underworld.

Noah sent a dove in Genesis 8:8-9: "Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground. But the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him." The dove returned with no indication that a place had been found to alight.

A week later, in Genesis 8:10-11, Noah sent the dove again: "He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark. And the dove came back to him in the evening, and behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth." Things had begun to grow once again; the earth was becoming more habitable.

Another week passed. Then, in Genesis 8:12, Noah sends out the dove one more time: "Then he waited another seven days and sent forth the dove, and she did not return to him anymore." The dove had no need to return to the ark, since it had found a home on land. The ark could soon be emptied, and humanity could begin to establish itself again in the world.

From Genesis 7:11 to 8:14, we know that the flood lasted a total of one year and ten days. The raven and the dove were released over a period of 21 days after the mountaintops became visible (Genesis 8:10-12). The raven served as a first attempt to discover dry land, and the dove became Noah's way of determining when to leave the ark.

The Holocene Epoch

A major climatic warming began about 13,000 years ago (11,000 BCE). It can be detected in deep-ocean sediments and in the changes of fossils of flora and insect faunas in western Europe. This warming was discontinuous, and the final remnants of the vast North American ice sheet lingered in Labrador until less than 7500 years ago. The date of the onset of the Holocene is now placed at about 9000 BCE. This date coincides closely with the end of the last cooling period in northwestern Europe and the final fragmentation of the dwindling Scandinavian ice sheet there.

A direct result of the melting of the great ice sheets was a major rise of world sea levels during the early part of the Holocene. The ocean levels were still about 35 m (110 feet) below the present. They subsequently rose rapidly until about 4000 BCE. Since that time the sea has fluctuated within a few meters of its present level.

Large areas of the continental shelves were exposed during the last ice age. These included the land bridge from Asia to North America across the Bering Strait, and connections between the British Isles and Europe, Japan and Siberia, Sri Lanka and India, and Tasmania and the Australian mainland. When the sea levels rose submergence of these bridges had major geographic effects and influence on the movement of peoples and animals.

The climatic development of the Holocene has been investigated chiefly through the technique of pollen analysis. Past vegetational conditions can be deduced from fossil pollen and spores preserved in lake and bog sediments. These changes can be interpreted in terms of ecological and climatic change. Results from many parts of the world show that the beginning of the Holocene was characterized by rapid climatic warming and widespread vegetational change. This led to the great ice-sheet recession.

Ereshkigal was the only one who could pass judgment and give laws in her kingdom. The main temple dedicated to her was located in **Kutha** - one of the five Syrian and Mesopotamian cities from which **Sargon II, King of Assyria**, brought settlers to take the places of the exiled Israelites (2 Kings 17:24-30). The result was a mixture of religions and peoples, the latter being known as "Cuthim" in Hebrew and as "Samaritans" to the Greeks.

Representing polar opposites, Ereshkigal is the older sister of the goddess **Inanna**, the Queen of Heaven. The ancient Sumerian poem, "*Inanna's Descent to the Underworld*" is by far the most well-known myth involving Ereshkigal. In later Babylonian mythology, Inanna was known as **Ishtar**.

Gilgamesh

Gilgamesh, originally **Bilgamesh**, is the main character in the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, an Akkadian poem that is considered the first great work of literature, and in earlier Sumerian poems. In the epic, Gilgamesh is a **demigod** of superhuman strength who builds the city walls of **Uruk** to defend his people and after the death of his friend **Enkidu** travels to meet the sage Utnapishtim, who survived the Great Flood.

See **Shamash, god of Sun**

Gudea

Gudea was a ruler (*énsi*) of the state of **Lagash** in Southern Mesopotamia who ruled c. 2144–2124 BCE. He probably did not come from the city, but had married **Ninalla**, daughter of the ruler **Urbaba** (2164–2144 BCE) of Lagash, thus gaining entrance to the royal house of Lagash. He was succeeded by his son **Ur-Ningirsu**.

Hadad (Ishkur)

Hadad, **Haddu** (Ugaritic) or **Iškur** (Sumerian) was the storm and rain god in the Northwest Semitic and ancient Mesopotamian religions. It was attested in **Ebla** as "Hadda" in c. 2500 BCE. From the **Levant**, Hadad was introduced to **Mesopotamia** by the **Amorites**, where it became known as the Akkadian (Assyrian-Babylonian) god **Adad**, **Haddad**.

He appeared bearded, often holding a club and thunderbolt while wearing a bull-horned headdress. Hadad was equated with the Indo-European Nasite Hittite storm-god **Teshub**; the Egyptian god **Set**; the Rigvedic god **Indra**; the Greek god **Zeus**; the Roman god **Jupiter**, as **Jupiter Dolichenus**.

Igigi

Igigi was a term used to refer to the gods of heaven in Sumerian mythology. Though sometimes synonymous with the term "**Annunaki**," in one myth the Igigi were the younger gods who were servants of the Annunaki, until they rebelled and were replaced by the creation of humans.⁴

Sumerian paradise is described as a garden in the myth of Atrahasis where lower rank deities (the Igigi) are put to work digging a watercourse by the more senior deities (the Anunnaki).

The Igigi then rebel against the dictatorship of Enlil, setting fire to their tools and surrounding Enlil's great house by night. On hearing that toil on the irrigation channel is the reason for the disquiet, the Anunnaki council decide to create man to carry out agricultural labour.

See **Annunaki**.

Imdugud

See **Anzû**.

Inanna, Queen of Heaven

See **Ishtar, Queen of Heaven**.

Possibly *also known as* Ningal; Inanna goddess of Love and War (Sumerian myth), the goddess of Uruk, 3rd in hierarchy behind Anu and Enlil. (The myth that Inanna's Uruk supplanted Enki's Eridu *probably* reflects prehistoric political fact).

Daughter of **Anu** and **Ki Urash**.

Consort of **Dumuzi**.

Possible Children: **Sophia** (goddess) of Wisdom; **Dindymene** of Phrygia; **Lugalbanda** (3rd King) of Uruk; and the Mother-goddess **Aserah**.

Possible grandchildren: Joseph Rama-Theo; Jesus `the Just' (Justus); Cybele the Mother-goddess; the daughter of Lugalbanda; Gilgamesh (5th King) of Uruk; and Baal, god of Thunder and Winter Storms.

Inanna, the most prominent female deity in ancient Mesopotamia, was the Sumerian goddess of love, beauty, sexual desire, fertility, knowledge, wisdom, war, and combat. She was also the patron goddess of the **E-Anna temple** at the city of **Uruk** (ca. 4000–3100 BCE), which was her main cult center - the "town of the sacred courtesans" and to her as the "courtesan of the gods." She was one of the most widely venerated deities in the ancient Sumerian pantheon. Her Akkadian and Babylonian equivalent was the goddess **Ishtar**.

Inanna's symbol is an ***eight-pointed star*** or a rosette. She was associated with ***lions*** - even then a symbol of power - and was frequently depicted standing on the backs of two lionesses.

Inanna was associated with the planet **Venus**, which at that time was regarded as two stars, the "**morning star**" and the "**evening star**." There are hymns to Inanna as her astral manifestation. It also is believed that in many myths about Inanna, including ***Inanna's Descent to the Underworld*** and ***Inanna and Shukaletuda***, her movements correspond with the movements of Venus in the sky. Also, because of its positioning so close to Earth, Venus is not visible across the dome of the sky as most celestial bodies are; because its proximity to the sun renders it invisible during the day. Instead, Venus is visible only when it rises in the East before sunrise, or when it sets in the West after sunset.

Because the movements of Venus appear to be discontinuous (it disappears due to its proximity to the sun, for many days at a time, and then reappears on the other horizon), some cultures did not recognize Venus as single entity, but rather regarded the planet as

⁴ This tale is synonymous with the displacement of the original White (Indo-European) blue-eyed inhabitants of the Middle East with the darker-skinned subhuman races which are predominant throughout the Middle East today.

two separate stars on each horizon as the morning and evening star. The Mesopotamians, however, most likely understood that the planet was one entity.

Inanna's Descent to the Underworld explains how Inanna is able to, unlike any other deity, descend into the netherworld and return to the heavens. The planet Venus appears to make a similar descent, setting in the West and then rising again in the East

In *Inanna and Shukaletuda*, in search of her attacker, Inanna makes several movements throughout the myth that correspond with the movements of Venus in the sky. An introductory hymn explains Inanna leaving the heavens and heading for **Kur**, what could be presumed to be, the mountains, replicating the rising and setting of Inanna to the West. Shukaletuda also is described as scanning the heavens in search of Inanna, possibly to the eastern and western horizons.

Furthermore, in the Qur'an, it is stated that the people of Abraham used to worship the Sun, moon and a star that "disappeared during night."

Inanna was associated with the eastern fish of the last of the zodiacal constellations, **Pisces**. Her consort **Dumuzi** was associated with the contiguous first constellation, **Aries**.

In the Babylonian epic of *Gilgamesh*, **Gilgamesh** points out Inanna's infamous ill-treatment of her lovers. Inanna also has a very complicated relationship with her lover, **Dumuzi**.

She also is one of the Sumerian war deities: "She stirs confusion and chaos against those who are disobedient to her, speeding carnage and inciting the devastating flood, clothed in terrifying radiance. It is her game to speed conflict and battle, untiring, strapping on her sandals." Battle itself is sometimes referred to as "the dance of Inanna."

Irkalla

In Mesopotamian mythology, **Irkalla** (Akkadian, also Ir-Kalla, Irkalia), **Kur** (Sumerian) or **Ersetu** (Akkadian) is the underworld from which there is no return. It was also called earth of no return, **Kurnugia** in Sumerian and **Erset la tari** in Akkadian. Kur is ruled by the goddess **Ereshkigal** and her consort, the death god **Nergal**.

Irkalla was originally another name for Ereshkigal, who ruled the underworld alone until Nergal was sent to the underworld and seduced Ereshkigal (in Babylonian mythology). Both the deity and the location were called Irkalla, much like how **Hades** in Greek mythology is both the name of the underworld and the god who ruled it.

The Sumerian netherworld was a place for the bodies of the dead to exist after death. One passed through the **seven gates** on their journey through the portal to the netherworld leaving articles of clothing and adornment at each gate, not necessarily by choice as there was a guardian at each gate to extract a toll for one's passage and to keep one from going the wrong way. The living spirits of the dead are only spoken of in connection with this netherworld when someone has been placed here before they are dead or wrongly killed and can be saved. The bodies of the dead decompose in this afterlife, as they would in the world above.

As the subterranean destination for all who die, Irkalla is similar to **Sheol** of the **Hebrew Bible** or Hades of classic Greek mythology. It is different from more hopeful versions of the afterlife, such as those envisioned by the contemporaneous **Egyptians** and the later in **Platonic philosophy**, **Judaism**, and **Christianity**. However, Irkalla also differs from the Greek **Tartarus** and the Christian perspective of **hell**. Irkalla had no punishment or reward, being seen as a more dreary version of life above, with Ereshkigal being seen as both warden and guardian of the dead rather than a sinister ruler like **Satan** or death gods of other religions.

Ishkur

See **Hadad**.

Ishtar, Queen of Heaven

See **Inanna, Queen of Heaven**.

Daughter of **Anu**.

The divine personification of the planet **Venus**.

Ishtar is the Mesopotamian East Semitic (Akkadian, Assyrian and Babylonian) goddess of fertility, the power of love, war, and sex. She is the counterpart to the earlier attested Sumerian Inanna, and the cognate for the later attested Northwest Semitic Aramean goddess Astarte, and the Armenian goddess Astghik. Ishtar was an important deity in Mesopotamian religion which was extant from c. 3500 BCE, until its gradual decline between the 1st and 5th centuries CE in the face of Christianity.

She was particularly worshipped in the Upper Mesopotamian kingdom of Assyria (*modern northern Iraq, north east Syria and south east Turkey*), particularly at the cities of Nineveh, Ashur and Arbela (*modern Erbil*), and also in the south Mesopotamian city of Uruk. Note: These places were then populated by a blue-eyed race of Indo-European peoples until Abram (Abraham) introduced the dark-skinned peoples as labourers who would do the hard, dirty work... but these drove the blue-eyed peoples out of their ancestral lands *even as is happening throughout the civilized world today, which is (again) being orchestrated by the Jews*.

Besides the lions on her gate, her symbol is an eight-pointed star.

Woe to him whom Ishtar had honoured! The fickle goddess treated her passing lovers cruelly, and the unhappy wretches usually paid dearly for the favours heaped on them. Animals, enslaved by love, lost their native vigour: they fell into traps laid by men or were domesticated by them. "Thou has loved the lion, mighty in strength," says the hero Gilgamesh to Ishtar, "and thou hast dug for him seven and seven pits! Thou hast loved the steed, proud in battle, and destined him for the halter, the goad and the whip."

Even for the gods Ishtar's love was fatal. In her youth the goddess had loved **Tammuz**, god of the harvest, and this love caused the death of Tammuz.

Her cult may have involved sacred prostitution - as **Inanna**, she was also the patron goddess of the **E-Anna temple** at the city of **Uruk** (ca. 4000–3100 BCE), which was her main cult center - the "town of the sacred courtesans" and to her as the "courtesan of the gods."

Ki Urash, dragon-goddess of the Earth

Daughter of **Anshar** and **Kishar**.

Sister-wife of **Anu**.

Child: **Inanna** or **Ishtar** (Queen) of Heaven.

Possible Children: **Ninhursag** (Mother-goddess); and **Enlil**, god of the Wind.

By her consort Anu, Ki gave birth to the **Anunnaki**, the most prominent of these deities being **Enlil**, god of the air. According to legends, heaven and earth were once inseparable until Enlil was born; Enlil cleaved heaven and earth in two. An carried away heaven. Ki, in company with Enlil, took the earth.

Ki has been identified as originally the same figure of the Sumerian mother goddess **Ninhursag**. She later developed into the Babylonian and Akkadian goddess **Antu**, consort of the god Anu (from Sumerian An).

Uraš or **Urash**, in Sumerian mythology is a goddess of earth, and one of the consorts of the sky god Anu. She is the mother of the goddess **Ninsun** and a grandmother of the hero **Gilgamesh**.

However, Uras may only have been another name for **Antum**, Anu's wife. The name Uras even became applied to Anu himself, and acquired the meaning "heaven." **Ninurta** also was apparently called Uras in later times.

Kingu

Kingu, also spelled **Qingu**, meaning "unskilled laborer," was a god in Babylonian mythology, and - after the murder of his father **Abzu** - the consort of the goddess **Tiamat**, his mother, who wanted to establish him as ruler and leader of all gods before she was killed by **Marduk**. Tiamat gave Kingu the three **Tablets of Destiny**, which he wore as a breastplate and which gave him great power. She placed him as the general of her army. However, like Tiamat, Kingu was eventually killed by Marduk. Marduk mixed Kingu's blood with earth and used the clay to mold the first human beings, while Tiamat's body created the earth and the skies. Kingu then went to live in the underworld kingdom of Ereshkigal, along with the other deities who had sided with Tiamat.

Kishar (primordial goddess)

Whole Earth or Earth-pivot.

Daughter of **Lahmu** and **Lahamu**.

Sister-wife of **Anshar**.

Children: **Anu**, god of the Sky; **Anatu** (goddess consort of Anu); and **Ki Urash**, goddess of the Earth.

Possible child: **Enlil**, god of the Wind.

Alternative mother of possible child: **Ki Urash**, goddess of the Earth.

Lahamu (a primordial goddess)

Silt.

Also known as Lakhamu, Lachos, Lumasi, or Assyro-Akkadian Lammasu.

Daughter of **Apsu** and **Tiamat**.

Sister-wife of **Lahmu** (primordial god).

Children: **Anshar** (primordial god); and **Kishar** (primordial goddess).

Grandchildren: **Anu**, god of the Sky; **Anatu** (goddess); and **Ki Urash**, goddess of the Earth

Lahamu is sometimes seen as a serpent, and sometimes as a woman with a red sash and six curls on her head

Lahmu (a primordial god)

Slime, Mud.

Son of **Apsu** and **Tiamat**.

Brother-husband of **Lahamu** (primordial goddess).

Children: **Anshar** (primordial god); and **Kishar** (primordial goddess).

Grandchildren: **Anu**, god of the Sky; **Anatu** (goddess); and **Ki Urash**, goddess of the Earth

Lahmu, Lakhmu, Lache, Lumasi, or Assyro-Akkadian Lammasu is a deity from Akkadian mythology that represents the zodiac, parent stars, or constellations

Marduk

Marduk (Babylonian form of his name) as a late-generation god from ancient **Mesopotamia** and patron deity of the city of **Babylon**. When Babylon became the political center of the Euphrates valley in the time of **Hammurabi** (18th century BCE), he slowly started to rise to the position of the head of the Babylonian pantheon, a position he fully acquired by the second half of the second millennium BCE. In the city of Babylon, he resided in the temple **Esagila**.

The etymology of the name Marduk is conjectured as derived from **amar-Utu** ("*bull calf of the sun god Utu*") and may have had cultural ties to the ancient city of **Sippar** (whose god was Utu), dating back to the third millennium BCE.

In the perfected system of astrology, the planet **Jupiter** was associated with Marduk by the Hammurabi period

Mesh-ki-ang-gasher

Mesh-ki-ang-gasher was a Sumerian ruler and the founder of the **First Dynasty of Uruk** and the father of **Enmerkar**, according to the *Sumerian King List*. If a historical ruler, he would have flourished in ca. 28th century BCE (Early Bronze Age II) - preceded by the **First dynasty of Kish**, the first city to have kings following the deluge

Nanna, god of the Moon

Also known as **Sin** (chief god of Ur).

Son of **Enlil** and **Ninlil**.

Husband of **Ningal** ("Great Lady"), goddess of the Moon.

Children: **Utu** or **Shamash**, god of Sun, and **Inanna** or **Ishtar** (Queen) of Heaven (goddess of the planet Venus).

Other children: **Numushda of Kazallu** (god of the City of Inab); and **Ereshkigal** (Immortal);

Possible grandchildren: Enki Samael (Immortal); Lilith (Immortal); Meskiaggasher (1st King) of Uruk; Aplu, Hurrian god of the Plague; Adg-ar-kidug; Sophia (goddess) of Wisdom; Dindymeme

of Phrygia; Lugalbanda (3rd King) of Uruk; and the Mother-goddess Aserah.

Sin (Akkadian: Su'en, Sîn) or **Nanna** (Sumerian) was the god of the moon in the Mesopotamian mythology of Akkad, Assyria and Babylonia. Nanna is a Sumerian deity, the son of **Enlil** and **Ninlil**, and became identified with **Semitic Sin**. The two chief seats of Nanna's/Sin's worship were **Ur** in the south of Mesopotamia and Harra in the north: During the period (c. 2600-2400 BCE) Ur exercised a large measure of supremacy over the Euphrates River valley.

Sin was also the name of the pre-Islamic god of the moon and riches worshipped at Hadhramaut, in pre-Islamic South Arabia.

Sin had a beard made of ***lapis lazuli*** and rode on a ***winged bull***. The bull was one of his symbols, through his father, Enlil, "Bull of Heaven," along with the ***crescent*** and the ***tripod*** (used in architecture).

In the **astral-theological system** he is represented by the number **30** and the moon. This number probably refers to the average number of days (correctly around 29.53) in a **lunar month**, as measured between successive new moons.

Nanna's chief sanctuary at Ur was named **E-gish-shir-gal** ("house of the great light"). It was at Ur that the role of the **En Priestess** developed. This was an extremely powerful role held by a princess, most notably **Enheduanna**, daughter of **King Sargon of Akkad**, and was the primary cult role associated with the cult of Nanna/Sin.

Sin also had a sanctuary at the city of **Harra**, named **E-khul-khul** ("house of joys"). The cult of the moon-god spread to other centers, so that temples to him are found in all the large cities of Babylonia and Assyria.

Nammu, Goddess of the Sea

Creator in Sumerian myth; (formless abyss, Horizon).

Wife of **Anu**, god of the sky.

Mother of **Ereshkigal**, goddess of Darkness; **Apsu**, Ocean of Sweet Water; **Tiamat**, Ocean of Salt Water; and Mummu.

In Sumerian mythology, Nammu (also Namma) was a primeval goddess, corresponding to Tiamat in Babylonian mythology.

Nammu was the goddess sea (Engur) that gave birth to **An** (heaven) and **Ki** (earth) and the first gods, representing the **Apsu**, the fresh water ocean that the Sumerians believed lay beneath the earth, the source of life-giving water and fertility in a country with almost no rainfall.

Nammu is not well attested in Sumerian mythology. She may have been of greater importance prehistorically, before **Enki** took over most of her functions.

According to the Neo-Sumerian mythological text ***Enki and Ninmah***, Enki is the son of An and Nammu. Nammu is the goddess who "has given birth to the great gods." It is she who has the idea of creating mankind, and she goes to wake up Enki, who is asleep in the Apsu, so that he may set the process going.

The ***Atrahasis-Epos*** has it that Enlil requested from Nammu the creation of humans. And Nammu told him that with the help of Enki (her son) she can create humans in the image of gods.

Nergal

Nergal, **Nirgal**, or **Nirgali** was a deity worshipped throughout Mesopotamia (Akkad, Assyria and Babylonia) with the main seat

of his worship at **Cuthah** (*represented by the mound of Tell-Ibrahim*). Nergal is mentioned in the **Hebrew Bible** as the deity of the city of Cuth (Cuthah): "And the men of Babylon made **Succoth-benoth**, and the men of Cuth made Nergal" (2 Kings, 17:30). According to the rabbins, his emblem was a ***cock*** and Nergal means a "***dunghill cock***" (*a fighting cock*), although standard iconography pictured Nergal as a ***lion***. He is a son of **Enlil** and **Ninlil**, along with **Nanna** and **Ninurta**.

Nergal seems to be in part a solar deity, sometimes identified with **Shamash**, but only representative of a certain phase of the sun. Portrayed in hymns and myths as a god of ***war*** and ***pestilence***, Nergal seems to represent the sun of noontime and of the **summer solstice** that brings destruction, high summer being the dead season in the Mesopotamian annual cycle. He has also been called "the king of sunset." Over time Nergal developed from a ***war god*** to a ***god of the underworld***. In the mythology, this occurred when Enlil and Ninlil gave him the underworld.

Nergal was also the deity who presides over the netherworld, and who stands at the head of the special pantheon assigned to the ***government of the dead*** (supposed to be gathered in a large subterranean cave known as **Aralu** or **Irkalla**). In this capacity he has associated with him a goddess **Allatu** or **Ereshkigal**, though at one time Allatu may have functioned as the sole mistress of **Aralu**, ruling in her own person. In some texts the god **Ninazu** is the son of Nergal and Allatu/Ereshkigal.

Ordinarily Nergal pairs with his consort **Laz**.

In the **late--Babylonian astral-theological system** Nergal is related to the planet **Mars**. As a fiery god of destruction and war, Nergal doubtless seemed an appropriate choice for the red planet, and he was equated by the Greeks to the war-god **Ares** (Latin Mars) - hence the current name of the planet.

Being a deity of the desert, god of fire, which is one of negative aspects of the sun, god of the underworld, and also being a god of one of the religions which rivaled **Christianity** and **Judaism**, Nergal was sometimes called a demon and even identified with **Satan**.

Ningal, goddess of the Moon

Possibly *also known as* Inanna or Ishtar.

Daughter of **Enki** and **Ningikurga**.

Wife of **Nanna** (moon god).

Children: **Utu** or **Shamash**, god of Sun, and **Inanna** or **Ishtar** (Queen) of Heaven (goddess of the planet Venus).

Other children: **Ereshkigal** (Immortal);

Possible child: Hept Ishtar.

Possible grandchildren: Enki Samael (Immortal); Lilith (Immortal); Sophia (goddess) of Wisdom; Dindymeme of Phrygia; Lugalbanda (3rd King) of Uruk; the Mother goddess Aserah; 'Azurad bint Nebrod; Tukulti-Ninurta I (King) of Assyria; Nimrod (King) of Assyria and Babylon; Aethiops (King) of Kush; Horus-Aha (Pharaoh) of Egypt; and Athothis (Osiris) of Egypt.

Ningikuga ("Lady of the Pure Reed")

Daughter of **An** and **Nammu**.

In Sumerian mythology, she was a goddess of reeds and marshes. She was one of the consorts of **Enki**, by whom she became the mother of **Ningal**.

Ninhursag (Mother-goddess)

The Mountain goddess (Nin-Khursag).

She had many names, including: **Ninmah** ("Great Queen"); **Nintu** ("Lady of Birth"); **Mamma** or **Mami** (mother); **Aruru**, and **Belet-Ili** (lady of the gods, Akkadian).

Daughter of **Anu** and possibly **Ki Urash**.

Husbands and/or partners: **Enki (Ea)**, god of Wisdom; and possibly **Anu** (god of the Sky).

Children: The Seven Dieties...

Possible children: **Dumuzi** or **Tammuz**, god of Fertility; **Adam**, the First Man; and **Alulim** (1st King) of Eridu.

Alternative mother of possible children: **Ninsun 'the Wise'** (cow goddess).

Possible grandchildren: daughter of Dumuzi; Dindymeme of Phrygia; Abel; and Alagar.

Possible great-grandchildren: Ur-Nungal (6th King) of Uruk; Cybele, the Mother-goddess; and Kidunnu.

In Sumerian mythology, **Ninhursag (Ninḫursag)** or **Ninkharsag** was a mother goddess of the mountains, and one of the seven great deities of Sumer. She is principally a ***fertility goddess***. Temple hymn sources identify her as the "true and great lady of heaven" (possibly in relation to her standing on the mountain) and kings of Sumer were "nourished by Ninhursag's milk." Her hair is sometimes depicted in an omega shape, and she at times wears a horned head-dress and tiered skirt, often with bow cases at her shoulders, and not infrequently carries a mace or baton surmounted by an omega motif or a derivation, sometimes accompanied by a lion cub on a leash. She is the tutelary deity to several Sumerian leaders.

According to legend her name was changed from Ninmah to Ninhursag by her son **Ninurta** in order to commemorate his creation of the mountains. As **Ninmenna**, according to a Babylonian investiture ritual, she placed the golden crown on the king in the **Eanna temple**.

As the wife and consort of **Enki** she was also referred to as **Damgulanna** (great wife of heaven) or **Damkina** (faithful wife). She had many epithets including *shassuru* or "womb goddess," *tabsut ili* "midwife of the gods," "mother of all children" and "mother of the gods." In this role she is identified with Ki in the **Enuma Elish**. She had shrines in both Eridu and Kish.

In the ***legend of Enki and Ninhursag***, Ninhursag bore a daughter to Enki called **Ninsar** ("Lady Greenery"). Through Enki, Ninsar bore a daughter **Ninkurra**. Ninkurra, in turn, bore Enki a daughter named **Uttu**. Enki then pursued Uttu, who was upset because he didn't care for her. Uttu, on her ancestress Ninhursag's advice buried Enki's seed in the earth, whereupon eight plants (the very first) sprung up. Enki, seeing the plants, ate them, and became ill in eight organs of his body. Ninhursag cured him, taking the plants into her body and giving birth to eight deities: Abu, Nintulla (Nintul), Ninsutu, Ninkasi, Nanshe (Nazi), Azimua, Ninti, and Enshag (Enshagag).

In the text "***Creator of the Hoe***," she completed the birth of mankind after the heads had been uncovered by Enki's hoe.

In creation texts, **Ninmah** (another name for Ninhursag) acts as a midwife whilst the mother goddess **Nammu** makes different kinds of human individuals from lumps of clay at a feast given by **Enki** to celebrate the creation of humankind.

Ninkasi

Ninkasi is the ancient Sumerian tutelary goddess of beer. Her father was the **King of Uruk**, and her mother was the **high priestess of the temple of Ishtar**, or the goddess of procreation. She is also one of the eight children created in order to heal one of the eight wounds that Enki receives. Furthermore, she is the goddess of alcohol. She was also borne of "sparkling fresh water." She is the goddess made to "satisfy the desire" and "sate the heart." She would prepare the beverage daily.

Ninlil, goddess of Heaven (Air)

Mother of the godlings.

Husband of **Enlil**, god of the Winds.

Child: **Nanna**, god of the Moon.

Possible children: Ninsun 'the Wise' (cow goddess); Nergal, Assyrian god in the Underworld; and Dagan, god of Grain.

Alternative mothers of possible children: Belet-ili (Immortal) or Ninhursanga, the Mountain goddess.

Possible grandchildren: Shamash, god of the Sun; Numushda of Kazallu (god of the City of Inab); Ereshkigal (Immortal); Inanna or Ishtar (Queen) of Heaven; Dyeus Phater; Gilgamesh (5th King) of Uruk; Dumuzi or Tammuz, god of Fertility; Adam, the First Man; Alulim (1st King) of Eridu; Enki Samael (Immortal); Lilith (Immortal); Aplu, Hurrian god of the Plague; and Baal, god of Thunder and Winter Storms.

In Sumerian religion, **Ninlil** ("lady of the open field" or "Lady of the Wind"), also called **Sud**, in Assyrian called **Mullitu**, is the consort goddess of **Enlil**. Her parentage is variously described. Most commonly she is called the daughter of **Haia** (god of stores) and **Nunbarsegunu** (or Ninshebagunnu [a goddess of barley] or Nisaba). Another Akkadian source says she is the daughter of Anu and Antu (Sumerian Ki). Other sources call her a daughter of Anu and Nammu.

She lived in paradisiacal **Dilmun**⁵ with her family. Impregnated by her husband Enlil, who lie with her by the water, she conceived a boy, **Nanna/Suen**, the future moon god. As punishment Enlil was dispatched to the underworld kingdom of Ereshkigal, where Ninlil joined him. Enlil impregnated her **disguised** as the gatekeeper, where upon she gave birth to their son **Nergal**, god of death. In a similar manner she conceived the underworld god **Ninazu** when Enlil impregnated her disguised as the man of the river of the nether world, a man-devouring river. Later Enlil disguised himself as the man of the boat, impregnating her with a fourth deity **Enbilulu**, god of rivers and canals. All of these act as substitutes for Nanna/Suen to ascend. In some texts Ninlil is also the mother of Ninurta, the heroic god who slew **Asag** the demon with his mace, **Sharur**.

After her death, she became the goddess of the wind, like Enlil. She may be the **Goddess of the South Wind** referred to in the

⁵ **Dilmun** was identified with **Bahrein**, whose name in Arabic means "two seas," where the fresh waters of the Arabian aquifer mingle with the salt waters of the Persian Gulf. This mingling of waters was known in Sumerian as **Nammu**, and was identified as the mother of Enki.

story of **Adapa**, as her husband Enlil was associated with northerly winter storms. As "**Lady Wind**" she may be associated with the figure of the **Akkadian demon "Lil-itu,"** thought to have been the origin of the **Hebrew Lilith legend**.

Ninsun `the Wise' (cow goddess)

Also known as Ninsumun.

Daughter of **Anu** (sky god) and **Uraš** or Urash (Sumerian: goddess of earth).

Mother of **Gilgamesh**.

Ninsun or Ninsuna ("lady wild cow") was a Sumerian goddess. She is best known as the mother of the legendary hero Gilgamesh, and as the tutelary goddess of Gudea of Lagash.

Ninsumun's main cult places were located within the city-state of Lagaš, yet she was also worshipped in some of the major southern Mesopotamian cities, such as Nippur, Ur, and Umma, as well as some minor localities

In the ***Epic of Gilgamesh***, Ninsun is depicted as a human queen who lives in Uruk with her son as king. Since the father of Gilgamesh was former king **Lugalbanda**, it stands to reason that Ninsun procreated with Lugalbanda to give birth.

Also in the ***Epic of Gilgamesh***, Ninsun is summoned by Gilgamesh and **Enkidu** to help pray to the god **Utu** to help the two on their journey to the Country of the Living to battle **Humbaba "the Terrible"** (see **Shamash**).

Ninsun was called **Gula** in Sumerian Mythology until the name was later changed to Ninisina. Gula in the latter became a Babylonian goddess.

Nintinugga

Nintinugga was a Babylonian goddess of healing, the consort of Ninurta. She is identical with the goddess of Akkadian mythology, known as **Bau** or **Baba**, though it would seem that the two were originally independent. She was the daughter of **An** and Ninurta's wife. She had seven daughters, including **Hegir-Nuna** (Gangir). She was known as a patron deity of **Lagash**, where **Gudea** built her a temple.

The name **Bau** is more common in the oldest period and gives way to **Gula** after the **First Babylonian Dynasty**. Since it is probable that **Ninib** has absorbed the cults of minor sun-deities, the two names may represent consorts of different gods. However this may be, the qualities of both are alike, and the two occur as synonymous designations of Ninib's female consort.

Other names borne by this goddess are Nin-Karrak, Nin Ezen, Ga-tum-dug and Nm-din-dug, the latter signifying "the lady who restores to life," or the goddess of Healing. After the **Great Flood**, she helped "breathe life" back into mankind. The designation well emphasizes the chief trait of **Bau-Gula** which is that of healer. She is often spoken of as "the great physician," and accordingly plays a specially prominent role in incantations and incantation rituals intended to relieve those suffering from disease.

She is, *however*, also invoked to curse those who trample upon the rights of rulers or those who do wrong with poisonous potions. As in the case of **Ninib**, the cult of Bau-Gula is prominent in **Shirgulla** and in **Nippur**. While generally in close association

with her consort, she is also invoked alone, giving her more dominance than most of the goddesses of Babylonia and Assyria.

She appears in a prominent position on the designs accompanying the **Kudurru**s boundary-stone monuments of Babylonia,⁶ being represented by a portrait, when other gods and goddesses are merely pictured by their shrines, by sacred animals or by weapons. In neo-Babylonian days her cult continues to occupy a prominent position, and **Nebuchadrezzar II** speaks of no less than three chapels or shrines within the sacred precincts of **E-Zida** in the city of **Borsippa**, besides a temple in her honour at Babylon.

Ninurta

Ninurta was a Sumerian and the Akkadian god of hunting and war.

He was worshipped in Babylonia and Assyria - and in Lagash he was identified with the city god **Ningirsu**. In older transliteration the name is rendered **Ninib** and **Ninip**, and in early commentary he was sometimes portrayed as a solar deity.

A number of scholars have suggested that either the god Ninurta or the Assyrian king bearing his name (**Tukulti-Ninurta I**) was the inspiration for the Biblical character **Nimrod**.

In Nippur, Ninurta was worshiped as part of a triad of deities including his father, **Enlil** and his mother, **Ninlil**. In variant mythology, his mother is said to be the harvest goddess **Ninhursag**. The consort of Ninurta was **Ugallu**⁷ - a lion-headed storm-demon and has the feet of a bird - in Nippur and **Nintinugga (Bau)** when he was called Ningirsu.

Ninurta often appears holding a bow and arrow, a sickle sword, or a mace named **Sharur**: Sharur is capable of speech in the Sumerian legend "***Deeds and Exploits of Ninurta***" and can take the form of a ***winged lion*** and may represent an archetype for the later **Shedu** - an Assyrian protective deity also known as **lamassu**, often depicted as having a human's head, a body of an ox or a lion, and bird's wings.

In another legend, Ninurta battles a birdlike monster called **Imdugud** (Akkadian: Anzû); a Babylonian version relates how the monster **Anzû** steals the **Tablets of Destiny** from **Enlil**. The Tablets of Destiny were believed to contain the details of fate and the future.

Ninurta slays each of the monsters later known as the "**Slain Heroes**" (the Warrior Dragon, the Palm Tree King, Lord Saman-ana, the Bison-beast, the Mermaid, the Seven-headed Snake, the Six-headed Wild Ram), and despoils them of valuable items such

⁶ Compare the **Kurgan stelae** or "**Stone baba**" (кам'яна баба; *kamiana baba*) or **Balbals** (балбал *balbal*, most probably from a Turkic word *balbal* meaning "ancestor" or "grandfather" or the Mongolic word "*barimal*" which means "handmade statue"). An anthropomorphic stone statue, 1-to-4 m in height, found in the steppe belt of **Europe** and **Asia** from the **Dnister River** in the west to **Mongolia** in the east. Commonly installed atop, within or around **kurgans** (i.e. tumuli), in kurgan cemeteries, or in a double line extending from a kurgan. The stelae are also described as "**obelisks**" or "**statue menhirs**" used as ***grave markers*** - the *baby* were connected with cults of the dead among nomadic peoples. Those erected in **Ukraine** were left by **Scythian** and **Sarmatian tribes** of the 7th-to-4th century BCE and by **Turkic** peoples of the 6th-to-13th century, particularly the **Cumans**. The figures are commonly in standing or sitting positions. In steppe Ukraine most of the *baby* are female figures that differ from their Asiatic counterparts in their more complex and varied dress.

Spanning more than three millennia, they are clearly the product of various cultures. The earliest are associated with the **Pit Grave culture** of the **Pontic-Caspian steppe** (and *therefore* with the **Proto-Indo-Europeans** according to the mainstream Kurgan hypothesis).

⁷ **Ugallu** was one of the eleven mythical monsters created by **Tiāmat** in her conflict with the younger gods, on the reverse of the first tablet of the Epic of Creation, ***Enūma Eliš***. The tale describes how **Marduk** captured and bound the creatures, rehabilitating them with work reconstructing the world from the corpses of his vanquished adversaries.

Ugallu first appears figuratively in the Old Babylonian period as a porter of the underworld, a servant of **Nergal**.

as Gypsum, Strong Copper, and the Magilum boat - a ship of the netherworld. Eventually, Anzû is killed by Ninurta who delivers the Tablet of Destiny to his father, Enlil.

There are many parallels with both and the story of **Marduk** (son of Enki) who slew Tiamat and delivered the Tablets of Destiny from Kingu to his father, Enki.

Shamash, god of Sun

Also known as **Utu** (god) of Uruk; possibly same as **Shem ibn Noah**, q.v.

Possible wives or partners: **Ereshkigal**, goddess of Darkness; **Nidaba**, Sumerian goddess of Writing and Learning; and Nidaba, a mortal.

Children: **Enki Samael** (Immortal); **Lilith** (Immortal); Mesharum; and Kittum.

Possible children: Meskiaggasher (1st King) of Uruk; and Aplu, Hurrian god of the Plague.

Alternative fathers of possible children: Nergal, Assyrian god in the Underworld; or Hia-Kish of Kish.

Possible great-grandchildren: Noham Adanya; Ninsu of Uruk; Lugalbanda (3rd King) of Uruk; and Apulu, god of Etruscans.

Shamash (Akkadian: Šamaš), "offspring of Nannar" (i.e. of the Moon-god), was the solar deity in ancient Semitic religion, corresponding to the Sumerian god **Utu**. Shamash was also the god of justice in Babylonia and Assyria.

The **Moon-god Sin** generally takes precedence of Shamash - it is in relationship, presumably, to the Moon-god that the Sun-god appears as the dependent power. Such a supposition would accord with the prominence acquired by the Moon in the calendar and in astrological calculations, as well as with the fact that the Moon-cult belongs to the nomadic and therefore earlier stage of civilization, whereas the Sun-god rises to full importance only after the agricultural stage has been reached.]

The two chief centers of **Sun-worship** in Babylonia were **Sippar**, (represented by the mounds at Abu Habba), and **Larsa**, (represented by the modern Senkerah). At both places the chief sanctuary bore the name **E-barra** (or E-babbara) "the shining house" - a direct allusion to the brilliancy of the Sun-god. Of the two temples, that at **Sippara** was the more famous, but temples to Shamash were erected in all large centers - such as Babylon, Ur, Mari, Nippur, and Nineveh.

Together with **Nannar-Sin** and **Ishtar**, **Shamash** completes another triad by the side of Anu, Enlil and Ea. The three powers Sin, Shamash and Ishtar symbolized three great forces of nature: the Moon, the Sun, and the life-giving force of the earth, respectively. At times instead of Ishtar we find **Adad**, the storm-god, associated with Sin and Shamash, and it may be that these two sets of triads represent the doctrines of two different schools of theological thought in Babylonia that were subsequently harmonized by the recognition of a group consisting of all four deities.

The consort of Shamash was known as **Aya**. She is, however, rarely mentioned in the inscriptions except in combination with Shamash.

Another reference to Shamash is the Babylonian *Epic of Gilgamesh*. **Gilgamesh** and **Enkidu** travel to slay **Humbaba the Terrible** - a monstrous giant of immemorial age raised by Utu, the Sun, as guardian of the **Cedar Forest**, where the gods lived, by the will of the god **Enlil**, who assigned [Humbaba] as a terror to human beings. Each morning Gilgamesh and Enkidu pray and make libation to *shamash* in the direction of the rising Sun for safe travels. Gilgamesh receives dreams from Shamash, which Enkidu then interprets, and at their battle with Humbaba, it is Shamash's

favor for Gilgamesh that enables them to defeat the monster. Shamash gifted to the hero Gilgamesh three weapons (the axe of mighty heroes, a great sword with a blade that weighs six score pounds and a hilt of thirty pounds and the bow of Anshan - one of the main cities of the Elamite region).

The attribute most commonly associated with Shamash is justice. Just as the Sun disperses darkness, so Shamash brings wrong and injustice to light. **Hammurabi**⁸ attributes to Shamash the inspiration that led him to gather the existing laws and legal procedures into code, and in the design accompanying the code the king represents himself in an attitude of adoration before Shamash as the embodiment of the idea of justice. Several centuries before Hammurabi, Ur-Engur of the Ur dynasty (c. 2600 BC) declared that he rendered decisions "according to the just laws of Shamash."

Shamash was historically associated with the planet **Saturn**.

Shamash is frequently associated with the **lion**, both in mythology and artistic depictions. In the ancient Canaanite religion, a "son of Baal Shamash," is known for slaying a lion (the son himself possibly an aspect of the god), and Shamash himself is depicted as a lion in religious iconography.

Sumerian King List

Antediluvian rulers

Enki, the god of **Eridu**, is said to have brought civilization to **Sumer** at this point, or just shortly before.

After the kingship descended from heaven, the kingship was in **Eridug**. In Eridug, Alulim became king; he ruled for 28,800 years.

Alulim was both the first king of Eridu and the first king of Sumer; he ruled for 8 sars (28,800 years). He was the composite half-man, half-fish counselor or culture hero (Apkallu) Uanna-Adapa (Oannes), and suggests an equivalence between Alulim and **Enosh** in the Sethite genealogy given in Genesis chapter five.

Alalngar (also written as: Alalgar, Alalgar, or Alaljar) was the second King of Sumer and ensi of Eridu. Alalngar was said to have reigned for 10 sars (36,000 years) (if not legendary, he may have ruled c. 2900 BCE).

Then Eridug fell and the kingship was taken to **Bad-tibira**, "Wall of the Copper Worker(s)" or "Fortress of the Smiths."

⁸ **Hammurabi** (c. 1810 BCE - 1750 BCE) was the sixth king of the First Babylonian Dynasty, reigning from 1792 BC to 1750 BCE.

The **Code of Hammurabi** was inscribed on a stele and placed in a public place so that all could see it, although it is thought that few were literate. The stele was later plundered by the **Elamites** and removed to their capital, **Susa**; it was rediscovered there in 1901 in Iran and is now in the Louvre Museum in Paris. The code of Hammurabi contained **282 laws**, written by scribes on **12 tablets**. Unlike earlier laws, it was written in **Akkadian**, the daily language of Babylon, and could therefore be read by any literate person in the city.

The structure of the code is very specific, with each offense receiving a specified punishment. The punishments tended to be very harsh by modern standards, with many offenses resulting in death, disfigurement, or the use of the "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth" (**Lex Talionis** "Law of Retaliation") philosophy. The code is also one of the earliest examples of the idea of **presumption of innocence**, and it also suggests that the accused and accuser have the opportunity to provide evidence. However, there is no provision for extenuating circumstances to alter the prescribed punishment.

A carving at the top of the stele portrays Hammurabi receiving the laws from the god Shamash or possibly Marduk, and the preface states that Hammurabi was chosen by the gods of his people to bring the laws to them. Parallels between this narrative and the giving of laws by God in Jewish tradition to **Moses** and similarities between the two legal codes suggest a common ancestor in the Semitic background of the two.

En-men-lu-ana, énsi of Bad-tibira, was the third pre-dynastic king of Sumer (before c. 2900 BCE):. He was also the longest-reigning king on the list, which said he ruled for 12 sars (43,200 years).

En-men-gal-ana, énsi of Bad-tibira, was the fourth pre-dynastic king of Sumer (before c. 2900 BCE). He reigned for 8 sars (28,800 years).

Dumuzid the Shepherd was the fifth predynastic king in the legendary period before the Deluge. Dumuzid ruled for 10 sars (36,000 years).

Then Bad-tibira fell and the kingship was taken to **Larag** (Larsa), the center of the cult of the sun god **Utu**.

En-sipad-zid-ana of Larak was the sixth pre-dynastic king of Sumer (before c. 2900 BCE). He was said to have reigned for 8 sars (28,800 years).

Then Larag fell and the kingship was taken to **Zimbir** (Sippar), cult site of the sun god (Sumerian Utu, Akkadian Shamash), the god of justice, and the home of his temple **E-babbara** - suggested as the location of the Biblical **Sepharvaim**, a double city, and the center of the worship of the god **Adramelech** (Moloch), associated with child sacrifice., and the Assyrian demon-goddess **Anamelech**.

En-men-dur-ana (also Emmeduranki) of Sippar was the seventh pre-dynastic king of Sumer (before c. 2900 BCE). He was said to have reigned for 5 sars and 5 ners (21,000 years). Emmeduranki was taken to heaven⁹ by the gods Shamash and Adad, and taught the secrets of heaven and of earth - in particular, the arts of divination, such as how to inspect oil on water and how to discern messages in the liver of animals and several other divine secrets.

Then Zimbir fell and the kingship was taken to **Shuruppak** or **Shuruppag** (Sumerian: "The Healing Place"), a grain storage and distribution city with more silos than any other Sumerian city. At the end of the **Uruk period** there was an archaeologically attested river flood in Shuruppak.

Ubara-Tutu (or Ubartutu), énsi of Shuruppak. was the eighth and last antediluvian king of Sumer. He was said to have reigned for 5 sars and 1 ner (18,600 years). Ubaratutu lived until the deluge swept over the land, like Lamech - eighth generation descendant of Adam (Genesis 5:25) - the son of Methuselah and the father of Noah (Genesis 5:29).

Then the flood swept over...

First Dynasty of Kish

After the deluge had swept over, and the kingship had descended from heaven,, the kingship was reestablished in the northern city of **Kish** - the first city to have kings following the deluge.

Jushur (also transliterated Jucur, Gushur, Ngushur, Gishur, etc.; earlier read as *Gaur*) was the first Lugal (king) of the first dynasty of Kish (c. 2550 BCE, or legendary). It claims he reigned in Sumer for 1200 years as the first post-diluvian king.

Kullassina-bel, Lugal of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE) and legendary king of Sumer (c. 2550 BCE), was the second king in the First Dynasty of Kish. He reigned for 960 (or 900) years. As the name

seems to be an Akkadian phrase meaning "All of them (were) lord," it has *sometimes* been suggested that the occurrence of this name on the list was intended to denote a period of no central authority in the early period of Kish.

Nangishlishma, énsi of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE) was the third Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BC). He ruled for 670 years.

En-tarah-ana, énsi of Kish, was the fourth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled for 420 years.

Babum, énsi of Kish, was the fifth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BC). He ruled for 300 years.

Puannum, énsi of Kish was the sixth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled for 840 years.

Kalibum, énsi of Kish, was the seventh Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled for 960 years.

Kalumum, énsi of Kish, was the eighth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled for 840 years.

Zuqaqip, énsi of Kish, was the ninth Sumerian king of the semi-legendary First Dynasty of Kish (between c. 2900-and-c. 2700 BCE). He ruled 900 years. His name means "Scorpion."

Atab (or A-ba), énsi of Kish, was the tenth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled for 600 years. His successor was his son Mashda.

Mashda son of *Atab*, énsi of Kish, was the eleventh Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 840 years.

Arwium son of *Mashda*, énsi of Kish, was the twelfth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 720 years.

Names before **Etana** do not appear in any other known source, and their existence is archaeologically unverified.

Etana "the shepherd, who ascended to heaven and consolidated all the foreign countries," was an ancient Sumerian king of the city of Kish (early 3rd millennium BCE or legendary). He ruled 1560 (or 635) years.

A Babylonian legend says that there was a tree with an eagle's nest at the top, and a serpent at the base. Both the **serpent** and **eagle** had promised **Utu** (the sun god) to behave well toward one another, and they share food with their children. But one day, the eagle eats the serpent's children. The serpent comes back and cries. Utu tells the serpent to hide inside of the stomach of a dead **bull**. The eagle goes down to eat the bull. The serpent captures the eagle, and throws him into a pit to die of hunger and thirst. Utu sends a man, Etana, to help the eagle.

Etana was desperate to have a child, so he asked the eagle to find the **plant of birth**, in order to become father of a son. The eagle then took him up into up to the heaven of the sky-god **Anu** to find the plant of birth, but Etana becomes afraid in the air and he goes back to the ground. He makes another attempt, and finds the plant of birth, enabling the birth of his son, Balih.

Balih son of *Etana*, énsi of Kish, was the fourteenth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 400 years.

En-me-nuna. énsi of Kish, was the fifteenth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 660 years.

Melem-Kish son of *En-me-nuna*, énsi of Kish, was the sixteenth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 900 years.

Barsal-nuna son of *En-me-nuna*, énsi of Kish, was the seventeenth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 1200 years.

Zamug son of *Barsal-nuna*, énsi of Kish, was the eighteenth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 140 years.

Tizqar son of *Zamug*, énsi of Kish, was the nineteenth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 305 years.

⁹ According to the Bible, **Enoch** (author of the *Book of Enoch*) and **Elijah** are the only two people God took to heaven without them dying. Enoch was the father of **Methuselah**, the man reported to have lived the longest at the age of 969 in the **Hebrew Bible**. Genesis 5:24 tells us, "Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away." Second Kings 2:11 tells us, "Suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind." Enoch is described as a man who "walked with God for 300 years" (Genesis 5:23). Elijah was perhaps the most powerful of God's prophets in the Old Testament. There are also prophecies of Elijah's return (Malachi 4:5-6).

Some speculate that they were taken in preparation for a role in the end times, possibly as the two witnesses in Revelation 11:3-12. This is possible, but not explicitly taught in the Bible.

Ilku, énsi of Kish, was the twentieth Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 900 years.

Ittasadum, énsi of Kish, was the twenty-first Sumerian king in the First Dynasty of Kish (after c. 2900 BCE). He ruled 1200 years.

Enmebaragesi (fl. c. 2600-2500 BCE), said to have built the first temple, was a king of Sumer and Lugal of Kish. He subdued Elam, reigned 900 years, and was captured single-handedly by **Dumuzid "the fisherman"** of Kuara, predecessor of **Gilgamesh**.

He is the earliest ruler on the king list whose name is attested confirmed directly from archaeology and independently from epigraphical evidence - the study of inscriptions or epigraphs as writing - leading to theories that Gilgamesh was also historical.

Aga of Kish son of **Enmebaragesi** was the last king/énsi in the first Dynasty of Kish - contemporary with **Gilgamesh** of Uruk, according to the ***Epic of Gilgamesh***. Aga is mentioned in the ***Epic of Gilgamesh*** as having besieged Uruk.

Then Kish was defeated and the kingship was taken to E-ana (House of heaven) ziggurat temple to Inanna in Uruk.

First Rulers of Uruk

Mesh-ki-ang-gasher of E-ana son of **Utu** was a Sumerian ruler and the founder of the First Dynasty of Uruk (c. 28th century BCE (Early Bronze Age II)) and the father of **Enmerkar**.

"In E-ana, Meš-ki-aĝ-gašer, the son of Utu, became en and lugal; he ruled for 324 [variants: 325] years. Meš-ki-aĝ-gašer entered the sea and disappeared. Enmerkar, the son of Meš-ki-aĝ-gašer, the king of Unug, who built Unug [variants: under whom Unug was built], became king; he ruled for 420 years. "

The entry thus has Mesh-ki-ang-gasher ruling the fortress or castle around which his son would build the city of Uruk, and which was to become the main temple to its patron goddess.

Unlike his successors Enmerkar, Lugalbanda, Dumuzid "the Fisherman" and Gilgamesh, Mesh-ki-ang-gasher is not known from Sumerian epics or legends besides the King List. His nature as the son of the sun god, the founder of a major dynasty and his mysterious "disappearance" in the sea give him a mostly mythological flavour. His son Enmerkar is also called "son of Utu" in the Sumerian legend Enmerkar and the Lord of Aratta - where, aside from founding Uruk, Enmerkar is credited with building a temple at Eridu and with the invention of writing.

Enmerkar "the son of Mesh-ki-ang-gasher, the king of Unug, who built Unug (Uruk)" was said to have reigned for 420 years (or 900 years). Enmerkar became king after his father Mesh-ki-ang-gasher son of **Utu** had "entered the sea and disappeared."

Aside from founding Uruk, Enmerkar is said here to have had a temple built at **Eridu**, and is even credited with the ***invention of writing on clay tablets***, for the purpose of threatening **Ensuhkeshdanna, lord of Aratta**¹⁰ into submission. Enmerkar furthermore seeks to restore the disrupted linguistic unity of the inhabited regions around Uruk, listed as Shubur, Hamazi, Sumer, Uri-ki (the region around Akkad), and the Martu (Amorite) land.

Lugalbanda "the shepherd" was the second king of Uruk. He ruled 1200 years.

A deified Lugalbanda often appears as the consort of the goddess **Ninsun**. In royal hymns of the Ur III period, **Ur-Nammu of Ur** and his son **Shulgi** describe Lugalbanda and Ninsun as their holy parents, and in the same context call themselves the brother of **Gilgamesh**. **Sin-Kashid of Uruk** also refers to Lugalbanda

and Ninsun as his divine parents, and names Lugalbanda as his god. In the Akkadian ***Epic of Gilgamesh*** and in earlier Sumerian stories about the hero, the king of Uruk, Gilgamesh, calls himself the son of Lugalbanda and Ninsun.

Dumuzid (Dumuzi) "the fisherman whose city was **Kuara**" (in Sumer) - birthplace of the god **Marduk** (Asarluihi), *Enki's son*: The cults of Marduk and **Ninehama** were centered in Kuara. "He captured En-me-barage-si, ruler of Kish, single-handedly." He was the 3rd king in the 1st Dynasty of Uruk, and Gilgamesh's predecessor.

He ruled in Uruk for 100 years (c. 2600 BCE) - far fewer than the 1200 years it ascribes his predecessor, Lugalbanda "the Shepherd."

Gilgamesh, "whose father was a phantom (?), the lord of Kulaba," a **demigod** of superhuman strength who builds the city walls of **Uruk** to defend his people and after the death of his friend **Enkidu** travels to meet the sage **Utnapishtim**, who survived the **Great Flood**. He originally considered by scholars to be a semi-divine hero but is now generally regarded as a historical king who reigned sometime between 2800-and-2500 BCE. Gilgamesh ruled the city of Uruk for 126 years. Gilgamesh and his son **Urlugal** rebuilt the sanctuary of the goddess Ninlil in Tummal, a sacred quarter in her city of Nippur.

Enmebaragesi of Kish and his son **Aga of Kish** are associated with Gilgamesh, according to the ***Epic of Gilgamesh***.

Ur-Nungal son of **Gilgamesh**, énsi of Uruk, was the sixth Sumerian ruler in the First Dynasty of Uruk (c. 26th century BCE). He ruled 30 years - and was succeeded by his son Udul-kalama.

Udul-kalama son of **Ur-Nungal** and grandson of **Gilgamesh**, énsi of Uruk, was the seventh Sumerian ruler in the First Dynasty of Uruk (c. 26th century BCE). He may have been one of several minor kings of Uruk who reigned when hegemony was actually held by the first dynasty of Ur. He ruled 15 years.

La-ba'shum, énsi of Uruk, was the eighth Sumerian ruler in the First Dynasty of Uruk (ca. 26th century BCE). He ruled 9 years.

En-nun-tarah-ana, énsi of Uruk, was the ninth Sumerian ruler in the First Dynasty of Uruk (c. 26th century BCE). He ruled 8 years.

Mesh-He Unug "the smith" (c. 2552 BCE) was the 10th lugal of the first dynasty of Uruk. He ruled 36 years - and it is believed he died by the year 2588 BCE.

Melem-ana ruled 6 years.

Lugal-kitun ruled 36 years.

Then Unug was defeated and the kingship was taken to Urim (Ur).

First Dynasty of Ur

Meskalamdug ("hero of the good land") and **Akalamdug**, along with Semitic Akkadian **Queen Puabi**, were early rulers of Ur who do not appear in the ***Sumerian King List***.

Mesh-Ane-pada (or Mesh-Ane-pada, "youngling chosen by An") son of **Meskalamdug** was the first king listed for the first dynasty of Ur (ca. the 25th century BCE). He is listed to have ruled for 80 years, having overthrown **Lugal-kitun of Uruk**.

Mesh-ki-ang-Nuna son of **Mesh-Ane-pada** ruled 36 years.

Elulu was the third énsi of the first dynasty of Ur. He built up the abzu ziggurat for Enki and reigned for 25 years.

Balulu was the final énsi of Ur, ruling for 36 years before Ur was defeated and the kingship moved to Awan.

Then Urim was defeated and the kingship was taken to **Awan** - a city or possibly a region of **Elam** whose precise location is not certain.

Dynasty of Awan

¹⁰ **Aratta** was a fabulously wealthy place, remote and difficult to reach (presumably in the Iranian highlands), full of gold, silver, lapis lazuli and other precious materials, as well as the artisans to craft them. It was home to the goddess Inanna, who transferred her allegiance from Aratta to Uruk after it was conquered by Enmerkar of Uruk.

The **Awan Dynasty** was the first dynasty of **Elam** of which anything is known today, appearing at the dawn of historical record. Elam was part of the early urbanization during the **Chalcolithic period (Copper Age)**. The **Elamites** were likely major rivals of neighboring **Sumer** from remotest antiquity; they were said to have been defeated by **Enmebaragesi** of Kish (c. 25th century BCE), who is the earliest archaeologically attested Sumerian king, as well as by a later monarch, **Eannatum I** of Lagash.

Awan exerted hegemony in Sumer at one time. It mentions three Awan kings, who supposedly reigned for a total of 356 years. Elam seems to have kept up a heavy trade with the Sumerian city-states during this time, importing mainly foods, and exporting cattle, wool, slaves and silver, among other things.

Awan kings carried out incursions in Mesopotamia, where they ran up against the most powerful city-states of this period, Kish and Lagash.

Then Awan was defeated and the kingship was taken to Kish.

Second Dynasty of Kish

Susuda "*the fuller*" ruled 201 years (c. 26th century BCE).

Dadasig ruled 81 years.

Mamagal "*the boatman*" ruled 360 years.

Kalbum *son of Mamagal* ruled 195 years.

Tuge ruled 360 years.

Men-nuna *son of Tuge* ruled 180 years.

(Enbi-Ishtar) ruled 290 years.

Lugalngu ruled 360 years.

The **First Dynasty of Lagash** (c. 2500–2271 BCE) is not mentioned in the King List, though it is well known from inscriptions

Then Kish was defeated and the kingship was taken to **Hamazi** (or Khamazi) - an ancient kingdom or city-state of some importance that reached its peak c. 2500–2400 BCE. Its exact location is unknown, but is thought to have been located in the western Zagros mountains roughly between Elam and Assyria.

Some early kings of Kish are known through archaeology, but are not named on the King list. These include **Utug** or **Uhub**, said to have defeated Hamazi in the earliest days, and **Mesilim** - *infer*, who built temples in Adab and Lagash, where he seems to have exercised some control.

The Dynasty of Hamazi

Hadanish of Hamazi held hegemony over Sumer after defeating Kish, but was in turn defeated by **Enshakushanna of Uruk**.

Then Hamazi was defeated and the kingship was taken to Unug (Uruk).

Second Dynasty of Uruk

En-shag-kush-ana was am énsi of Uruk in the later 3rd millennium BCE (c. 25th century BCE). He reigned 60 years and is said to have conquered Hamazi, Akkad, Kish, and Nippur, claiming hegemony over all of Sumer; then **Eannatum of Lagash** claims to have taken over Sumer, Kish, and all Mesopotamia.

Eannatum of Lagash [his "Tidnu" (Amorite) name was Lumma] was the son of Akurgal and grandson of Ur-Nanshe *son of Gunidu*, who was the first king of the First Dynasty of Lagash (c. 2500 BCE) in the Sumerian Early Dynastic Period III.

Lugal-ure or **Lugal-kinishe-dudu** succeeded En-shag-kush-ana in Uruk and ruled for 120 years, but the hegemony seems to have passed to Eannatum of Lagash for a time. Lugal-kinishe-dudu was later allied with **Entemena** *son of En-anna-tum I* (flourished 2400 BCE), who reestablished Lagash as a power in Sumer. With the aid of Lugal-kinishe-dudu of Uruk, successor to Enshakushanna, Entemena defeated Lagash's principal rival, **Illu of Umma** - the

city reached its zenith (c. 2275 BCE) under the rule of **Lugal-Zage-Si**, who also controlled Ur and Uruk..

Lugal-zage-si of Umma (reigned c. 2294-2270 BCE) was the last Sumerian king before the conquest of Sumer by **Sargon of Akkad** and the rise of the Akkadian Empire, and was considered as the only king of the third dynasty of Uruk. He eventually united Sumer briefly as a single kingdom

Argandea ruled for 7 years.

Then Unug was defeated and the kingship was taken to Urim (Ur).

Second Dynasty of Ur

Nanni ruled 120 years (c. 25th century BCE).

Mesh-ki-ang-Nanna II *son of Nanni* ruled 48 years.

(?) ruled 2 years.

Then Urim (Ur) was defeated and the kingship was taken to **Adab**

Dynasty of Adab

Mesilim, also spelled **Mesalim** (c. 2500 BCE), lugal (king) of the Sumerian city-state of Kish, appears to have ruled at Adab, based on inscriptions found at Bismaya. He reigned some time in the Early Dynastic III period (c. 2500-2330 BCE), but he is **not mentioned on the Sumerian Kings List**.

Mesilim is best known for having acted as mediator in a conflict between **Lugal-sha-engur**, his énsi in Lagash, and the neighboring rival city state of **Umma**, regarding the rights to use an irrigation canal on the border between the two. After asking the opinion of the god **Satarana**, Mesilim established a new border between Lagash and Umma, and erected a pillar to mark it, on which he wrote his final decision. This solution was not to be permanent; a later king of Umma, **Ush**, destroyed the pillar in an act of defiance.

Lugal-ane-mundu (c. 25th century BCE) was the most important king of the city-state Adab in Sumer. He ruled 90 years following the defeat of **Meskiaj-nanna of Ur**. He is said to have conquered all Mesopotamia from the Persian Gulf to the Zagros Mountains and Elam

His empire, perhaps the first in recorded history, collapsed upon his death. His empire is said to have included the provinces of **Elam**, **Marhashi**, **Gutium**, **Subartu**, the "**Cedar Mountain land**" (**Lebanon**), **Amurru** or **Martu**, "**Sutium**" (?), and the "**Mountain of E-anna**" (Uruk with its ziggurat?). Following this, the king list indicates that the "kingship" (i.e. the Nippur-based hegemony) fell to a dynasty from **Mari**, beginning with **Anbu**; however, it has been suggested that more likely, only the last of these Mari kings, **Sharrumiter**, held the hegemony after Lugal-ane-mundu. With the break-up of the Adab kingdom, other prominent cities appear to have concurrently regained their independence, including **Lagash (Lugalanda)**, **Akshak**¹¹ (which not long afterward won the kingship from Mari, perhaps under **Puzur-Nirah**, and **Umma** (whose king Lugal-zage-si eventually went on to seize his own empire throughout the Fertile Crescent).

Then Adab was defeated and the kingship was taken to **Mari**.¹²

¹¹ According to the king list, **Akshak** defeated the **Third Dynasty of Kish** to claim the kingship. Situated on the northern borders of **Akkad**, it is sometimes identified with **Babylonian Upi (Greek Opis)**. Its exact location is uncertain, but it was probably near **Eshnunna**, on the banks of the **River Diyala**. It first appeared in written records in about 2600 BCE and during the period of its ascendancy, in the 25th century BCE, it was at war with Lagash.

Puzur-Nirah *son of Urur de Akshak* (c. 2411-2391 BCE), ruled for 20 years. Akshak presumably gains the kingship from Kish around this time. The **Fourth Dynasty of Kish** reclaimed the kingship (c. 2360 BCE) until Akshak was captured by **Lugalzaggesi of Umma**, and presumably becomes a vassal thereafter (c. 2353-2330 BCE).

¹² **Mari** was an ancient Semitic city in Syria - the existence of Mari was related to its position in the middle of the **Euphrates trade routes**; this position

Dynasty of Mari

Anbu ruled 30 years (ca. 25th century BCE).

Anba son of Anbu ruled 17 years.

Bazi "the leatherworker" ruled 30 years.

Zizi of Mari "the fuller" ruled 20 years.

Limer "the 'gudug' priest" ruled 30 years.

Sharrum-iter ruled 9 years.

Then Mari was defeated and the kingship was taken to Kish.

Third Dynasty of Kish

The **Third Dynasty of Kish** is unique in that it begins with a woman, **Kubau** (Sumerian: **Kug-Bau**), the founder and first ruler of the Third Dynasty of Kish - the only queen on the **Sumerian King List**, which states she reigned for 100 years, roughly in the **Early Dynastic III period** (c. 2500-2330 BCE), following the defeat of **Sharrumiter of Mari**. Other versions combine her with the fourth dynasty, that followed the primacy of the king of **Akshak**. Before becoming monarch, the king list says she was an alewife (i.e. a tavern keeper who brewed ale for commercial sale).

In later times, she was deified and worshipped as the goddess **Kheba**. In the **Hurrian** area she may be identified with **Kebab**, or **Hepat** ("the mother of all living")¹³ daughter of a mortal named

made it an intermediary between **Sumer** in the south and the **Levant** in the west.

Mari was first abandoned in the middle of the 26th century BCE but was rebuilt and became the capital of a hegemonic East-Semitic state before 2500 BCE. This **second Mari** engaged in a long war with its rival **Ebla**, and is known for its strong affinity with the Sumerian culture. It was destroyed in the 23rd century BCE by the **Akkadians** who allowed the city to be rebuilt and appointed a military governor bearing the title of **Shakkanakku** (military governor). The governors later became independent with the rapid disintegration of the Akkadian empire and rebuilt the city as a regional center in the middle Euphrates valley. The Shakkanakkus ruled Mari until the second half of the 19th century BCE when the dynasty collapsed for unknown reasons. A short time after the **Shakkanakku collapse**, Mari became the capital of the **Amorite Lim dynasty**. The Amorite Mari was short lived as it was annexed by Babylonia in c. 1761 BCE, but the city survived as a small settlement under the rule of the Babylonians and the **Assyrians** before being abandoned and forgotten during the Hellenistic period.

The **Mariotes** worshiped both Semitic and Sumerian deities and established their city as a center of old trade. However, although the pre-Amorite periods were characterized by heavy Sumerian cultural influence, Mari was not a city of Sumerian immigrants but rather a Semitic speaking nation that used a dialect similar to **Eblaite** - an extinct Semitic language, which was very close to **pre-Sargonic Akkadian**, and used during the third millennium BCE by the East Semitic speaking populations of Northern Syria.

The **Amorites** were **West-Semites** who began to settle the area before the 21st century BCE; by the Lim dynasty's era (c. 1830 BCE), they became the dominant population in the **Fertile Crescent**.

¹³ Queen of the deities, **Hebat** is married to **Teshub** and is the mother of **Sarruma** and **Alanzu**, as well mother-in-law of the daughter of **Illuyanka**, a serpentine dragon slain by Teshub.

Sarruma or **Sharruma** is brother of the goddess **Inara**, who was, in Hittite-Hurrian mythology, the goddess of the wild animals of the steppe - she corresponds to the "**potnia theron**" of Greek mythology, better known as **Artemis**.

Sarruma, often depicted riding a tiger or panther and carrying an axe (cf. labrys), was a Hurrian mountain god, who was worshipped by the Hittites and **Luwians** - a group of people who lived in Asia Minor and Northern Syria in the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. It appears that the Luwians never formed a single Luwian state, but were divided into a number of kingdoms. During this period, the kingdoms of **Seha** (in the area of ancient Lydia) and **Arzawa** (the Arzawan capital was **Apaša** (Ephesus)) developed in the west, focused on the **Maeander valley** (the **Büyük Menderes River** is a river in southwestern Turkey - it rises in west central Turkey near Dinar before flowing west through the **Büyük Menderes graben** until reaching the Aegean Sea in the proximity of the ancient Ionian city **Miletus**). In the south was the state of **Kizzuwatna** (ancient Cilicia, the south coastal region of Asia Minor), which was inhabited by a mixture of Hurrians and Luwians. The kingdom of **Tarhuntašša** developed during the **Hittite New Kingdom**, in southern Anatolia. Whether the kingdom of **Wilusa**, located in northwest Anatolia on the site of **Ilium (Troy)**, was a Luwian state cannot be clearly determined on current evidence and is a matter of controversy in contemporary scholarship.

Arm - one title of the Hurrian Mother goddess **Hannahanna** (from Hurrian *hannah*, "mother," and from Hittite *hanna*- "grandmother"), related to or influenced by the pre-Sumerian goddess **Inanna**. During Aramaean times **Hepat** also appears to have become identified with the goddess **Hawwāh**, or **Eve** (Adam's wife and the first woman, created by **Yahweh** by taking her from the rib of Adam, to be Adam's companion). The Hittite sun goddess **Arinniti** ("Queen of all lands"), chief goddess and wife of the weather god **Tarhunna** in Hittite mythology,¹⁴ was later assimilated with **Hebat**. Her **Lydian** name was **Kuvav** or **Kufav** which **Ionian Greeks** initially transcribed **Kybêbê** daughter of **Zeus**, rather than **Kybele**. The mother goddess is likely to have had a later counterpart in the Phrygian goddess **Cybele**.

Her son **Puzur-Suen** and grandson **Ur-Zababa** followed her on the throne in Sumer as the fourth Kish dynasty on the king list, in some copies as her direct successors, in others with the **Akshak** dynasty intervening. **Ur-Zababa** is also known as the king said to be reigning in Sumer during the youth of **Sargon the Great of Akkad**, who militarily brought much of the near east under his regime shortly afterward.

Then Kish was defeated and the kingship was taken to Akshak.

Dynasty of Akshak

Unzi ruled 30 years (c. 25th-24th century BCE).

Undalulu ruled 6 years.

Urur ruled 6 years.

Puzur-Nirah ruled 20 years. He was contemporary with **Queen Kug-Bau** of Kish - *supra*.

Ishu-Il ruled 24 years.

¹⁴ The Sun goddess of **Arinna** and the storm god **Tarhunna** (also called **Teššub**) formed a pair and together they occupied the highest position in the Hittite state's pantheon. The pair's daughter was **Mezulla**, also known as **Tappinu** (Hittian: "her daughter") - together they formed a triple deity - by whom they had the granddaughter **Zintuḫi** (from Hittite, "granddaughter"). Their other children were the corn god **Telipinu**, the Weather god of **Nerik**, and the Weather god of **Zippalanda**. The eagle served as her messenger.

Mezulla had a temple in the holy city of **Arinna**, which was the second most important in the city after that of her mother. No other temples of **Mezulla** are known, but worship of her is also attested in **Ḫattuša**, **Taḫurpa**, and other north Hittite cities. Like her mother she could also be worshipped in the form of a **silver solar disc**. **Zintuḫi** was worshipped along with her mother and grandmother. Like her mother, she could be invoked as an intermediary with the Sun goddess of **Arinna**.

Telipinu son of the Storm god **Teššub** and the solar goddess **Arinniti** most likely served as a patron of farming, though he has also been suggested to have been a storm god or an embodiment of crops. His wife was the goddess **Hatepuna** daughter of the sea god, though he was also paired with **Šepuru** and **Kašša** at various cultic centers. It has been suggested that **Telipinu** endured in later mythology as the Greek **Telephus** and the Caucasian **Telepia**, but this identification is uncertain. In addition, his name was adopted by several kings, such as the **Hittite monarch Telipinu**, king of the Hittites (c. 1460 BCE).

In ancient Anatolia, Weather gods were the rulers of the sky and the mountains; they cast down thunder, lightning, clouds, rain and storms.

The Weather god of **Nerik** (also referred to as **Nerak** or **Nerikkil**) was a Hittite weather god, who was mainly worshipped in the Hittite city of **Nerik**, whose cult was relocated to **Kaštama** and **Takupša** for two hundred years after the Hittites lost **Nerik** to the **Kaskians**. The partner of the Weather god of **Nerik** was the goddess **Tešimi**, the Lady of the Palace. During droughts, the winter and after the harvest, it was said that the Weather god of **Nerik** was asleep in **Tešimi's** lap. In **Nerik**, **Tešimi** was also considered to be the partner of the god **Telipinu**.

Anzili or **Enzili** was a Hittite goddess who was worshipped in **Tamita** and **Zapišḫuna**. Her name is sometimes written with the Sumerogram **IŠTAR**. She was considered the partner of the Weather god of **Zippalanda**, who was worshipped as a sender of rain and also as a fertility deity... but she was also attested as the partner of the Weather god of **Šarišša**, in the "Upper Land" of **Hatti**. Along with the goddess **Zukki**, **Anzili** was involved in rituals to aid childbirth. **Anzili** and **Zukki** are among the many Hittite deities, whose temporary disappearance is the topic of myth: The standard pattern is that the deity disappears as a result of their anger and they have to be mollified in order to bring them back.

Shu-Suen of Akshak son of Ishu-II ruled 7 years.

Then Akshak was defeated and the kingship was taken to Kish.

Fourth Dynasty of Kish

Puzur-Suen son of Queen Kug-Bau ruled 25 years (ca. 24th-23rd century BCE).

Ur-Zababa son of King Puzur-Suen and grandson of Queen Kug-Bau was the second king of the 4th Dynasty of Kish. **Sargon of Akkad** was a cup-bearer for Ur-Zababa before becoming ruler of Akkadian Empire. Soon after t, Ur-Zababa appointing Sargon of Akkad cup-bearer, Ur-Zababa invited him to his chambers to discuss a dream of Sargon's, involving the favor of the goddess **Inanna**. Ur-Zababa was deeply frightened and decided to send Sargon to **King Lugal-zage-si of Uruk** with a message on a clay tablet asking him to slay Sargon. Sargon failed to comply fully with this order...

Lugal-zagesi of Uruk and Umma destroyed Kish toward the end of his reign, before himself being deposed by Sargon. Sargon also played a role in Ur-Zababa's downfall. Ur-Zababa's successors in Kish as named on the king-list, beginning with **Zimudar**, seem to have been vassals of Sargon, and there is no evidence that they ever really exercised hegemony in Sumer.

Zimudar ruled 30 years.

Usi-watar son of Zimudar ruled 7 years.

Eshtar-muti ruled 11 years.

Ishme-Shamash ruled 11 years.

(Shu-ilishu) (ruled 15 years).

Nanniya ruled 7 years (c. 2303-2296 BCE).

Then Kish was defeated and the kingship was taken to Unug (Uruk).

Third Dynasty of Uruk

Lugal-zage-si of Umma ruled for 25 (or 34) years (c. 2294/96-2270/71 BCE). He is said to have defeated **Urukagina of Lagash**, as well as Kish and other Sumerian cities, creating a unified kingdom. He was the last Sumerian king before the conquest of Sumer by **Sargon of Akkad** and the rise of the **Akkadian Empire**, and was considered as the only king of the third dynasty of Uruk.

Lugal-Zage-Si pursued an expansive policy. He began his career as **énsi of Umma**, from where he conquered several of the Sumerian city-states - including **Kish**, where he overthrew **Ur-Zababa**; **Lagash**, where he overthrew **Urukagina**;¹⁵ **Ur**, **Nippur**, and **Larsa**; as well as Uruk, where he established his new capital.

¹⁵ **Urukagina** (reigned c. 24th century BCE), énsi of the city-state Lagash, assumed the title of king, claiming to have been divinely appointed, upon the downfall of his corrupt predecessor, **Lugalanda son of the high priest of Lagash**, a Sumerian king of Lagash during the 24th century BCE. At this time the high priests of Lagash were very influential, and either occupied the throne, or decided who should. The priests, especially the high priests, remained very influential during Lugalanda's reign.

Lugalanda was married to **Baranamtarra**, the daughter of a great landowner who had commercial connections with the **queen of Adab**. Baranamtarra was Queen of Lagash during the 24th century BCE. In 2384 BCE, Baranamtarra and her husband, Lugalanda, seized power of Lagash, one of the oldest cities in Sumer. They became the largest landholders in the city, and Baranamtarra presided over a temple and several estates herself. Queen Baranamtarra managed her own private estates and those of the temple of the goddess **Bau (Nintinugga)**. She bought and sold slaves and sent diplomatic missions to neighboring states. Due to the political instability at the time, they in turn were overthrown by Urukagina, in 2378 BCE.

Urukagina is best known for his reforms to combat corruption, which are sometimes cited as the first example of a legal code in recorded history. Although the actual text has not been discovered, much of its content may be surmised from other references to it that have been found. He also participated in several conflicts, notably a losing border conflict with Uruk. In the seventh year of his reign, Uruk fell under the leadership of **Lugal-zage-si**, énsi of Umma, who ultimately annexed most of the territory of Lagash and established the first reliably documented kingdom to encompass all of Sumer.

Lugal-Zage-Si claimed in his inscription that Enlil gave to him "all the lands between the upper and the lower seas," that is, between the **Mediterranean Sea** and the **Persian Gulf**. Although his incursion to the Mediterranean was, in the eyes of some modern scholars, not much more than "a successful raiding party," the inscription "marks the first time that a Sumerian prince claimed to have reached what was, for them, the western edge of the world." (Historical accounts from much later tablets asserted that **Lugal-ane-mundu of Adab** - *supra*, a slightly earlier king, had also conquered as far as the Mediterranean and the **Taurus Mountains**, but contemporary records for the entire period before Sargon are still far too sketchy to permit scholars to reconstruct actual events with great confidence.)

Sargon of Akkad captured Lugal-Zage-Si after destroying the walls of Uruk, and led him in a neck-stock to Enlil's temple in Nippur.

Then Unug was defeated and the kingship was taken to Agade (Akkad).

Tablets of Destiny

In Mesopotamian mythology, the **Tablet of Destinies** (Sumerian: *Dup Shimati*) was envisaged as a clay tablet inscribed with cuneiform writing, also impressed with cylinder seals, which, as a permanent legal document, conferred upon the god **Enlil** his supreme authority as ruler of the universe.

In the Sumerian poem *Ninurta and the Turtle* it is the god **Enki**, rather than Enlil, who holds the tablet. Both this poem and the Akkadian *Anzû* poem share concern of the theft of the tablet by the bird **Imdugud** (Sumerian) or **Anzû** (Akkadian). Supposedly, whoever possessed the tablet ruled the universe. In the Babylonian *Enuma Elish*, Tiamat bestows this tablet on Kingu and gives him command of her army. **Marduk**, the chosen champion of the gods, then fights and destroys Tiamat and her army. Marduk reclaims the Tablet of Destinies for himself, thereby strengthening his rule among the gods.

Tammuz (deity)

Tammuz is a Sumerian god of food and vegetation, also worshiped in the later Mesopotamian states of Akkad, Assyria and Babylonia.

In Babylonia, the **month Tammuz** was established in honor of the eponymous god Tammuz, who originated as a Sumerian shepherd-god, **Dumuzid** or **Dumuzi**, the consort of **Inanna** and, in his Akkadian form, the parallel consort of **Ishtar**. The Levantine ("lord") **Adonis**, who was drawn into the Greek pantheon, was another counterpart of Tammuz, son and consort.

Beginning with the **summer solstice** came a time of mourning in the Ancient Near East, as in the Aegean: the Babylonians marked the decline in daylight hours and the onset of killing summer heat and drought with a six-day "funeral" for the god. Recent discoveries reconfirm him as an annual **life-death-rebirth deity**: tablets show that Dumuzi was in fact consigned to the **Underworld** himself, in order to secure Inanna's release.

Tiāmat, Ocean of Salt Water

Primordial.

Possibly *also known as* Mummu the Creator (god).

Slain by **Marduk**.

Husbands and/or partners: **Apsu**, Ocean of Sweet Water; **Apophis** (Egyptian god of Darkness); **Kingu**, god; and **Marduk**, chief god of Assyria.

Children: **Kingu**, god; **Lahmu** (primordial god); **Lahamu** (primordial goddess); the mortal world of **Babylon**; and 11 monsters to avenge Apsu's death.

Her *possible* grandchildren: **Adapa** (King) of Eridu; **Anshar**, a primordial god; **Kishar**, a primordial goddess; and **Illuyanka the Dragon** (god).

Her *possible* great-grandchildren: **Kain (Cain)**; **Adam**, the First Man; **Anu**, god of the Sky; **Anatu** (goddess); **Ki Urash**, goddess of the Earth; and the daughter of Illuyanka.

In Mesopotamian religion (Sumerian, Assyrian, Akkadian and Babylonian), **Tiamat** is a primordial goddess of the ocean, mating with **Abzu** (the god of fresh water) to produce younger gods. She is the symbol of the **chaos of primordial creation**, depicted as a woman, she represents the beauty of the feminine, depicted as the glistening one. It is suggested that there are two parts to the **Tiamat mythos**, the first in which Tiamat is a creator goddess, through a "sacred marriage" between salt and fresh water, peacefully creating the cosmos through successive generations. In the second "**Chaoskampf**" Tiamat is considered the monstrous embodiment of primordial chaos. Some sources identify her with images of a sea serpent or dragon.

In the **Enūma Elish**, the Babylonian epic of creation, she gives birth to the first generation of deities; her husband, Apsu, correctly assuming they are planning to kill him and usurp his throne, later makes war upon them and is killed. Enraged, she, too, wars upon her husband's murderers, taking on the form of a massive sea dragon, she is then slain by Enki's son, the storm-god **Marduk**, but not before she had brought forth the monsters of the Mesopotamian pantheon, including the first dragons, whose bodies she filled with "poison instead of blood." Marduk then forms heavens and the earth from her divided body.

Tree of Life

The **Tree of Life** is one of the most pervasive and enduring legends in the history of religion. Belief in it's reality spans from deep within the stone age to the present. It has always been associated with divinity and immortality. It was the **axis mundi**¹⁶ otherwise

known as the **world tree** to the cultures of that time. Along with the Tree of Life is the **Mother Earth goddess**. The Mother Earth Goddess is directly associated with the Tree of Life. Both are extremely potent symbols and both are embedded within the evolving cultures of early man which has their roots in the **Andite culture**.¹⁷ A third symbol unsurprisingly associated with both the Tree of Life and the Great goddess is the serpent.

The worship of the Earth Mother, was by the time of the **Neolithic** (or New Stone Age, 10,200-4500/2000 BCE) becoming dominated by the male gods. In **Sumeria** the goddess became **Inanna** and remained a potent figure of worship and power: The true origin of Inanna is not known but she seems to be a composite deity evolving from the earliest goddess cults merging with the persona of **Eve**. The veneration of the Tree of Life continued on finding expression in both stone reliefs and palatial murals. As these Andites migrated out from the alluvial plains of the **Tigris** and **Euphrates** every culture that grew up in their wake echoed their reverence for the Tree of Life.

Inanna has an elusiveness of not being connected to a definite male figure. I think that this is indicative of her original ascension in status to a goddess from the time after the ancient establishment of **Eden**. Her roots are in the Great Earth Mother which would pave the way of her assimilation to Eve and being placed in the Sumerian pantheon as **Inanna**, in the Assyrian pantheon as **Aster** and in the Egyptian pantheon as **Isis**. If we look at the symbol of Isis we see the **ankh** in which carries the root form of the scepter. In hieroglyphics the ankh simply meant "life." Even as Isis became **Venus** her scepter continues on perpetuating its power derived from a branch snapped from the Tree of Life originally grown in the soil of southern Mesopotamia.

In the tale of **Enki** ordering the universe, Inanna grew angry as Enki announced the decrees called **Mes**, assigning more than 160 godlings to their roles in the universe. Inanna asked what he intended to give her, and he responded by giving her all that was left over. By way of this bequest, and as daughter of the moon, Inanna took over the female related powers usually associated with the moon. She became the **goddess of fertility** and of strong emotions such as **love** and **hate**.

In Charles Darwin's **The Origin of Species**, published in 1859, the British naturalist drew a diagram of an oak to depict how one species can evolve into many. But not much was known about primitive life forms or genetics back then when he was only dealing with plants and animals - long before there was any real comprehension of **DNA** or **bacteria**. The discovery of the structure of DNA in 1953 - whose pioneers believed it would provide proof of Darwin's tree - opened up new vistas for **evolutionary biology**. But current research is finding a far more complex scenario than Darwin could have imagined - particularly in relation to bacteria and **single-celled organisms**. These simple life forms represent most of Earth's biomass and diversity - not to mention the first two-thirds of the planet's history. Many of their species swap genes back and forth, or engage in gene duplication, recombination, gene loss or gene transfers from multiple sources.

temple of **Ea** - three temples aligned vertically upon one another. More interestingly the axis mundi is also represented by the **world tree** or a sacred tree. This tree was supposedly planted by **Inanna**. Previous to **Babylon** the axis mundi was resident at **Nippur** whose god was **Enlil** one of the highest gods of the Sumerian pantheon.

¹⁷ In general, **Andites** should be thought of as having a far greater percentage of **Adamic blood** than the modern races. The Andites were the best all-round human stock. The earliest Andite peoples took origin in the regions adjacent to **Mesopotamia** more than twenty-five thousand years ago and consisted of a blend of the **Adamites** and **Nodites**. [Note: As the period of the early **Adamic migrations** - from 25,000-to-15,000 BCE - ended, there were already more descendants of Adam in **Europe** and **central Asia** than anywhere else in the world, even than in Mesopotamia. The later or Andite migrations extended from about 15,000-to-6000 BCE. Now Mark: Enoch spoke about a race of people descended from the offspring of "the sons of God who mated with the daughters of men." This race is referred to as the Nephilim, which corresponds to the Nodite race of the Urantia Book. This inter-racial union between Nodites and the daughters of man is blamed for the evil and sin that resulted in "the flood," by which God purified the earth.]

¹⁶ The **axis mundi** is a term for the center or axis upon which the world revolves. It is a vertical column connecting the heavens, the earthly plain and the underworld. In Babylon Marduk's temple **Ensagil** was considered the location of the axis mundi. In other words Ensagil represented the center of the world. Not only that but it was constructed over the place where life originated and the first humans were created (by **Marduk**). On this vertical column were also located the heavenly temple of **An** and the underworld

More fundamentally recent research suggests the evolution of animals and plants isn't exactly tree-like either. Understanding how cells evolve and mutate is incredibly important it's helping scientists learn why some **diseases** are resistant to **vaccines** and **antibiotics**, and why others can evade the **immune system**. It's leading to environmental solutions too some bacterial genes can break down harsh contaminants into harmless by-products.

Scientists believe that the tree of life was useful. It helped us to understand evolution was real. But now that we know more about evolution it's time to move on.

Utnapishtim

Utnapishtim, or Utanapishtim, is a character in the *Epic of Gilgamesh* who is tasked by **Enki (Ea)** to abandon his worldly possessions and create a giant ship to be *called The Preserver of Life*. He was also tasked with bringing his wife, family, and relatives along with the craftsmen of his village, baby animals and grains. The oncoming flood would wipe out all animals and humans that were not on the ship, a concept that was mirrored by the biblical story of **Noah's Ark**. After twelve days on the water, Utnapishtim opened the hatch of his ship to look around and saw the slopes of **Mount Nisir**, where he rested his ship for seven days. On the seventh day, he sent a **dove** out to see if the water had receded, and the dove could find nothing but water, so it returned. Then he sent out a **swallow**, and just as before, it returned, having found nothing. Finally, Utnapishtim sent out a **raven**, and the raven saw that the waters had receded, so it circled around, but did not return. Utnapishtim then set all the animals free, and made a sacrifice to the gods. The gods came, and because he had preserved the seed of man while remaining loyal and trusting of his gods, Utnapishtim and his wife were given immortality, as well as a place among the heavenly gods

Utu

Utu is the Sun god in Sumerian mythology, the son of the moon god **Nanna** and the goddess **Ningal**. His brother and sisters are **Ishkur (Hadad)**, **Ereshkigal**, and his twin sister **Inanna**. His center cult was located in the city of **Larsa**.

Utu is the god of the sun, justice, application of law, and the lord of truth. He is usually depicted as wearing a horned helmet and carrying a saw-edged weapon not unlike a pruning saw. It is thought that every day, Utu emerges from a mountain in the east, symbolizing dawn, and travels either *via* chariot or boat across the Earth, returning to a hole in a mountain in the west, symbolizing sunset. Every night, Utu descends into the underworld to decide the fate of the dead. He is also depicted as carrying a mace, and standing with one foot on a mountain. Its symbol is "sun rays from the shoulders, and or sun disk or a saw."

The sun god is only modestly mentioned in Sumerian mythology with one of the notable exceptions being the *Epic of Gilgamesh*. In the myth, **Gilgamesh** seeks to establish his name with the assistance of Utu, because of his connection with the cedar mountain. Gilgamesh and his father, **Lugalbanda** were kings of the first dynasty of **Uruk**, a lineage that could be traced back to Utu himself.

Marduk is spelled ^dAMAR.UTU in Sumerian, literally, "the calf of Utu" or "the young bull of the Sun."

Uttu

Uttu in Sumerian mythology is the goddess of weaving and clothing. She is both the child of **Enki** and **Ninkurra**, and she bears seven new child/trees from Enki, the eighth being the **Ti (Tree of**

"Life," associated with the **"Rib"** ¹⁸). When Enki then ate Uttu's children, Ninhursag cursed him with eight wounds and disappears. Uttu in Sumerian means "the woven" and she was illustrated as a spider in a web. She is a goddess in the pantheon.

She is sometimes mistaken for Sumerian **Utu**, the male solar deity.

¹⁸ The rib story was borrowed from the Ninhursag saga a powerful Nodite female goddess. **Ninhursag**, who created the first "smarter humans" was celebrated by the **Anunnaki** and she was given the title of **"Nin-ti,"** or **"Lady of life."** Since early Hebrew has multiple meanings for the phrase "ti," meaning both "rib" and "life," the creation of **Eve** by Nin-ti yielded to the errant story of the first woman being created by **Adam's rib** (hence "the lady of the rib")."